



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

William Ronald, Chairman

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Date 21-05-2022.....

1. Aims of the Association

1.1 Aims: The Take a Pride in Perthshire Association was established in 1998 as a charity registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Its aims are to enhance the environment, foster community spirit and encourage public participation in improvement projects, across Perth & Kinross, that deliver public benefit.

1.2 Charitable objectives:

- To improve the environment and quality of life throughout the Perth & Kinross Local Authority area, by supporting and enabling voluntary Environment “in Bloom” Groups in their work to protect, care for and enhance their local natural, horticultural, cultural and built environment and heritage.
- To advance the education of the public by supporting and encouraging educational initiatives concerning the local environment and other related issues and by providing lifelong learning about the natural environment through environmental campaigns and sustainable improvement projects.
- To advance community development by fostering community spirit and pride of place by encouraging public participation for the achievement of these and other related purposes.

In furtherance of the above charitable purposes the organisation will:

- Enhance local amenities and facilities through environmental campaigns and improvement projects.
- Support community initiatives and social causes through fundraising and charitable work.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

2.1 The Association’s governing document is a constitution, drawn up in 1998 and regularly reviewed, most recently in June 2021.

2.2 Membership of the Association is open to representatives from all ‘In Bloom’ groups in the Perth and Kinross area. An Annual General Meeting, which is open to all member groups, is held in the first quarter of the financial year (April, May or June).

2.3 The governing body is a Committee of Trustees, appointed at the AGM from its member organisations and Perth & Kinross Council. The Committee met 7 times during 2021-22

but, following the government's guidance on the coronavirus pandemic, all meetings were held 'virtually' via Zoom.

2.4 Financial Management: as specified in the Constitution, all funds are applied in accordance with the Objectives of the Association and monies not required for immediate purposes are held in a 12-month Fixed-term Savings Account. The Treasurer, at the Annual General Meeting, submits accounts of the Income and Expenditure and of the Balance Sheet at the end of the financial year (31st March). These accounts are independently scrutinised within the provisions of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Accounts and Statements of Balances for April 2021 to March 2022 are presented to the members at the AGM in the Treasurer's Report.

2.5 List of Trustees 2021-22: Chairman: Bill Ronald; Secretary: Jenny Williams (Perth & Kinross Council); Treasurer: Monica Straughan (Beautiful Perth); Other Trustees: Caroline Boyle (Abernethy in Bloom); Susan Crawford (Muthill in Bloom); Norma Smith (Kinnesswood in Bloom); Louise Summers (Luncarty in Bloom); Elspeth Bruce (Beautiful Perth); Advisers: Charlie Hardman and Hamish Martin (Project Development Advisers); Lorna Sharp (Independent Examiner)

2.6 Trustee Remuneration: The Trustees all act on a voluntary basis and no remunerations are paid.

2.7 Project Development Advisers: The project development role is provided by Nicki Souter Associates (NSA) based in Auchterarder. The Association's contract with NSA was renewed in March 2022 for a further two-year period.

3. Covid-19

The global pandemic of coronavirus Covid-19 continued to have an impact on our activities. Varying levels of restrictions and social distancing rules applied during the course of the year, limiting the range of activities undertaken by the volunteers in our member groups, although significant progress was made on several projects. All grant bodies who have provided funds for the projects have been notified of any delays and are understanding of the situation.

Our committee meetings were held virtually via Zoom, as was our 2021 AGM. This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held in Perth in May under normal 'face-to-face' arrangements.

4. Achievements and performance 2021/22

When member groups initiate local environmental projects, the Association provides, on request, project management services, including the all-important fundraising. During the year 2021-22 the following projects were undertaken by member groups in partnership with the Association:

4.1 *Projects under development:*

- **Alyth Burn Side Enhancement (Alyth in Bloom).** The second phase of this exciting and ambitious landscape improvement project at Alyth Burn Side started on site in May 2021. The project was not without its challenges! Firstly, the Covid-19 pandemic 'lockdown' meant that the work on site was delayed. Secondly, following completion of the Phase 1 preparatory contract, the site was severely flooded and badly damaged in August 2020. This resulted in much of the Phase 1 work having to be done again. The contract for Phase 2 of the project, which included the hard landscaping of a new riverside path, replacement tree planting and installation of burnside railings, was successfully completed in late September 2021. Phase 3 saw bench seating, planters, an interpretation board and a listening post being installed. To complete the final phase, an attractive piece of public art will be installed prior to the 'official' opening of the site in July of this year. Funds totalling £152,000 were secured for this project.
- **Abernethy – Heritage Garden (Abernethy in Bloom)** Design proposals for the development of an imaginative and attractive Heritage Garden at the prominent Hatton Road site was agreed following public consultation. The Garden will facilitate physical access and usage for all and will also provide information regarding the history and heritage of Abernethy village. The contract for Phase 1 of the project started on site in March 2022 and includes the construction of boundary and internal walls; laying footpaths; preparing planting beds and installing bench seats. Funding totalling £79,000 has been raised.
- **St Fillans – 'Still' Sculpture (St Fillans in Bloom)** The local environmental group has exciting plans to reinstate the 'Still' sculpture to Loch Earn. Created by Scottish sculptor and environmental artist Rob Mulholland, the sculpture was commissioned by the previous owner of the Four Seasons Hotel but was removed from the loch when the hotel was sold in 2017. The sculpture previously formed part of the BLiSS Art trail, a series of sculptures and installations from local artists and architects found

through the villages of Balquidder, Lochearnhead, Strathyre and St Fillans. St Fillans in Bloom has agreed to purchase the sculpture from the present owner and has been granted planning permission to reinstate it in the waters of Loch Earn. The group will be liaising with the artist to ensure the siting and installation of the sculpture retains the concept of his original vision. Fund raising is underway.

- **Ardoch/Braco – Cock and Hen Wall Restoration (Ardoch in Bloom)** The Southern approach to Braco features a “Cock and Hen” dry stone wall, approximately 200m in length, linking the local new Cemetery to the Village of Braco. This wall has fallen into a state of disrepair. The local group has already undertaken the conservation of 50 metres as part of a Phase 1 Project resulting in a structurally and aesthetically improved feature. However, given the length of the wall, Ardoch in Bloom wishes to continue with improvements and conserve the whole length of the wall and, in doing so, conserve this feature. Following surveys, a probable cost has been prepared and fund raising is underway.
- **Comrie – Enhancement of War Memorial Garden (Comrie in Colour)** This Project will protect the importance of the site for future generations, both as a place of reflection and a source of information. It will also continue to provide an area for ceremonial events, such as Remembrance Day. The improvement plans for the Garden will provide a lower maintenance approach to managing the site whilst enhancing the aesthetics and renewing seating areas therein. New planting areas will feature pollinator friendly planting and increase biodiversity. Comrie has a rich military history and regeneration of the garden will enable interpretation of this. It will also link to other sites in the vicinity, such as Cultybraggan Camp, thus increasing the interest for visitors to Comrie. Designs for the refurbishment of the Garden are being produced so that Comrie in Colour can carry out community consultation.
- **Kinross – Restoration of Crosswell Fountain (Kinross in Bloom)** The Crosswell Fountain was built in 1885 to mark the arrival of a fresh, piped drinking water supply to the residents of Kinross. The decorative fountain has become integral to the sense of place and local built heritage of Kinross and is something of a local landmark. Although no longer operational, it is a Category C listed structure. The final phase in the restoration of the fountain is the reconstruction of the Lion Head features. The contract has been awarded with the work due to start in mid-May 2022.

4.2 Completed projects:

- **Pitlochry Wildlife Garden (Pitlochry in Bloom).** Following public consultation, designs for the refurbishment of the old Wildlife Garden were agreed. Tenders for the

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works were obtained and the contract awarded in December 2019. Work on site was due to start in March 2020 but, as with the Alyth Burn Side project, the global pandemic meant that the project was temporarily put 'on hold'. The renewal work included the construction of a gabion basket retaining wall, sowing wildflower areas, making a new entrance to the garden, installing a timber boardwalk and timber benches, and refurbishing the pond area. Funds totalling £35,000 were secured for this project, the majority of which was raised by the local group.

- **Blairgowrie Coronation Corner (Blairgowrie and Rattray in Bloom).** To mark its 40th Anniversary in 2018, the local Bloom group planned a number of projects, the main one being the refurbishment of Coronation Corner greenspace in Blairgowrie. Following public consultation, designs for the site, which included a circular pathway, planting beds, bench seating and an events space, were agreed, tenders for the works obtained and the contract awarded in August 2020 for the renewal of the site. As with other of our projects the work was also delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic 'lockdown' and was not completed until September 2021. Funds totalling £41,000 were secured for this project.

5 Chairman's Message

As described above, the Association has worked with communities across Perth & Kinross during the past twelve months to develop and deliver a range of excellent projects that are enhancing the local environment to the benefit of the people who live and work in the area, and those who choose to visit our area.

As indicated in the Treasurer's Report, the Association continues to be financially viable and to enjoy the active involvement of volunteers from the community-based environment groups in Perth & Kinross. The strength of our partnership with Perth and Kinross Council's Community Greenspace Team is vital to our continued success. I thank them for their ongoing support.

It has been an honour to be Chairman of the Take a Pride in Perthshire Association for the past year and I sincerely thank my fellow Trustees for their commitment, enthusiasm and support in what has been another challenging year. I also wish to thank the 'Bloom family' of volunteers across the length and breadth of Perth and Kinross who continue to care for and enhance our precious environment.

Bill Ronald, Chairman, Take a Pride in Perthshire Association