



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Karen McDonnell, Chairman

Karen McDonnell

23rd May 2026

Aims of the Association

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. Its charitable objectives (below) are set by OSCR in line with Scottish Charity legislation

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.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Association’s governing document is a constitution, drawn up in 1998 and regularly reviewed, most recently in June 2025.

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).

The governing body is a Committee of Trustees, appointed at the AGM from its member organisations and Perth & Kinross Council. The Committee met 5 times during 2025-26. Individual Trustees also take on advisory roles for active projects being undertaken by local groups

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 2025 to March 2026 are presented to the members at the AGM in the Treasurer's Report.

List of Trustees 2025-26: Chairman: Karen McDonnell (Scotlandwell in Bloom); Secretary: **Vacant**; Treasurer: Barry Starck (Pride In Meigle 2015). Other Trustees: Susan Whyte (Perth & Kinross Council representative); Susan Crawford (Muthill in Bloom); Willie Wilson (Viewlands Venture); Liz Paterson (Ardoch in Bloom); Kevin Gates (Scone in Bloom) Jennifer Ragsdell (Burrelton & Woodside in Bloom); Gordon Lindsay (Beautiful Perth). Advisers: Charlie Hardman (Project Development Adviser); Lorna Sharp (Independent Examiner) In attendance: Elspeth Bruce (PKC); Claire McCarlie (PKC) from October 2025

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

Project Development Advisers: A project development service is provided by Nicki Souter Associates (NSA), a locally based company. The Association's contract with NSA was renewed in March 2024.

Achievements and performance 2025/26

When member groups initiate local environmental projects, the Association provides, on request, project management services, including the all-important fundraising. During the year 2025-26 the following projects were undertaken by member groups in partnership with the Association:

Projects completed and currently under development:

There are 10 projects at various stages of development, and all details can be found in the Project Development Advisor's report attached as Appendix A.

Chairman's Message

Continuing to be the Chairman of the Association is indeed a privilege. Hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers work hard in communities across Perth & Kinross, and we can help them make things happen on the ground by providing advice on fundraising, project management and sharing knowledge and experience.

We're now in our 28th year of making a difference through partnership working with Perth and Kinross Council's Community Greenspace Team who provide support to each group and help them to bring out the best in their communities.

The Association is unique within the UK our charitable objects bind our communities together and help them thrive to provide a focus for projects that are life enhancing. This approach is the envy of communities across the country. The Association are reflecting on how we deliver through our trustee network there are opportunities to step up into trustee roles at this moment so please do speak to our existing trustees today. The year hasn't been without its challenges the Treasurer's Report in particular highlights the challenges bring in external funding to support our projects. However, we do think innovatively as demonstrated by our recent Muthill in Bloom success. We have also during the year begun to develop a business case to encourage local organisations to consider us worthy of support, the preceding paragraphs of this report are being highlighted as part of the business case.

For the second-year trustees have successfully lobbied for additional funding during the PKC budget process. Whilst we are apolitical, we are grateful for the support from our local Councillors and parties they represent.

A huge thank you to you all. I sincerely thank my fellow Trustees for making it easy for me and of course for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Karen McDonnell, Chairman, Take a Pride in Perth & Kinross Association