

IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Garthdee Field Allotments Association	Assessment date: 18. .08.16
Name of assessors: Ian and Sandra Maclennan	
Introduction: (Please give a brief bit of background about the group / project) The energetic and innovative Garthdee Field Allotment Association members work tirelessly to improve and develop their site whilst engaging with a range of partners and funders. The site is a model of good practice, with meticulous planning and execution.	
Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)	
<p>The group is working towards things such as: (e.g. involving local people, working in partnership, gaining support)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaimhill Primary School makes regular visits to the allotment site and has its own plot and polytunnel classroom planned. • Macmillan Cancer Support has a plot which is visited by clients, carers and families. Over £200 was raised for Macmillan at a recent summer BBQ. • Networking partners include: Robert Gordon University Union and the Faculty of Health and Social Care; The Garthdee Liaison Group; Friends of Duthie Park; other allotment groups; Peterhead Prison: ACVO volunteers and TAMS (The Allotment Market Stalls) • Funding is regularly sought and successful bids have resulted in help from Aberdeen Greenspace to purchase a lawn mower and a generator, for resources to build links with Kaimhill School and other community groups, and to add to the biodiversity and sustainability of the site. Other substantial amounts have been obtained in previous years. • The group is currently hoping to be successful in the Skipton Buiding Society community awards. • Regular Community Sundays attract an 'all age' group of volunteers to tackle site tasks and enjoy tea and cakes. 	
Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	37
Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)	
<p>The group is engaged in environmental activities such as: (e.g. conservation, composting, improving green space, reducing litter and dog fouling)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally responsible actions are a hallmark of the group. • It utilises compost, manure and leaf mould from Aberdeen City Council. • Kits for bird and bug boxes have been purchased and installed. • A number of members participated in a New Zealand flatworm research study being 	



carried out by the University of Aberdeen.

- Several members collect rainwater and others are being encouraged to do likewise.
- A student from Robert Gordon University has been engaged in a study of bees, and several members have aided the research by planting pollinator plants.
- An ECO toilet was funded by RGU in 2015 and has proved to be an asset, especially when young people are visiting.
- To minimise costs and resources, the new south bank has been planted with donations and cuttings.
- Major work was undertaken to level parts of the site to prevent repeat flooding.
- Benches and footstools have been built at HMP Peterhead using reclaimed timber.

Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)

27



Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)

The group is employing good gardening practices appropriate to the area, such as: (e.g. good plant choice, creative design, maintenance of plants)

- Overall the allotments are productive and in good order. There is an effective management system in partnership with Aberdeen City Council.
- Communal areas are well managed, with appropriate surfaces and grass cut to a professional standard.
- The major project this year has been the creation of the south bank. A summary of the programme follows: a detailed plan was drawn up, and appropriate advice sought and followed to create a low maintenance border area below the perimeter wall. Soil used was the balance of a load of 1,000 tonnes donated by Barratt Houses. A close study of the conditions of the soil and the types of plants which are expected to thrive was made, and the results will continue to be monitored. Advice and plants were received from Carol Baxter of the Beechgrove Garden when she visited the site.
- Surplus vegetable and fruit are collected by The Allotments Market Stalls members, and the proceeds help to augment funds. There has been an increase this year in the quantity donated.
- 1,000 daffodil bulbs and 1,000 crocus corms gifted by Aberdeen City Council were planted in the autumn around communal areas and in allotments.

Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)

28

GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED

92

LEVEL ACHIEVED

Level 5- Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

- The ambitious south bank project - a major undertaking which is developing successfully.
- The drive and enthusiasm of the committee and members to keep moving forward and introducing new projects to enhance their site.
- The wide range of partnerships and networking which brings welcome funding, supports different sectors of the community, and secures the viability and sustainability of the site.
- The use of social media to publicise the work of the group and keep members and volunteers informed of progress.





Areas for development:

- It will be rewarding to see the south bank area when all plans are completed.
- Continue to share your exemplary practice with a wider range of groups and individuals.

RESULTS

Level	Description	Points
Level 1	Establishing	0-35
Level 2	Improving	36-52
Level 3	Advancing	53-68
Level 4	Thriving	69-85
Level 5	Outstanding	86-100

