



## IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

<b>Name of group: Garthdee Field Allotments Association</b>	<b>Assessment date: 25/10/2023</b>
<b>Name of assessor: Steven Shaw</b>	
<b>Introduction:</b> <p>Garthdee Field Allotments Association (GFAA) is a volunteer run Community Group who manage the Garthdee Field Allotment site (owned by Aberdeen City Council).</p> <p>Their aims and current priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sharing gardening expertise and good practice</li><li>• Encouraging green and sustainable gardening methods</li><li>• Increasing awareness of biodiversity</li><li>• Widening participation in projects and social events</li><li>• Spreading the benefits of plot working and being outdoors into the wider community.</li><li>• GFAA is responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day site management and maintenance.</li></ul>	
<b>Section A - Community Participation (40%)</b>	
<p>The group have a great success with their volunteers and volunteer days every Tuesday. There are volunteers with additional support needs and their time at the allotment is well supported by everyone involved. They are an asset to the group.</p> <p>There is a community day once a month on a Sunday which helps with the jobs and tasks required across the site.</p> <p>There is some great partnership working in place. The group are well connected to Aberdeen City Council's allotment team, the local school, Brighter Horizons nursery, RGU, Alzheimer Scotland and businesses such as Asda, who donated some plants.</p> <p>The new cabin is an asset to the group as is used regularly by the group, plotters, volunteers, and students. It is a lovely place for a spot cup of team and some cake!!</p> <p>I was impressed by the portable solar panels that have just been purchased 😊.</p> <p>The group has developed a great partnership with the local primary school and classes from Kaimhill visit on regular basis. They have returned this year having not been able to attend since 2019. They have their own plot and love their time at the allotment.</p> <p>The group has an excellent Web site which provides good information.</p>	



## **Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30%)**

There is a wide range of plants grown on the various plots.

The group has done fantastically well with grant funding having been awarded £20K from the Just Transition Fund in 2023 (over 1700 voted for the group's bid). This funding has paid for the new cabin, a greenhouse, an electric woodchipper and a hot composter. Brilliant!

There has been huge effort made by the group to remove 45 metal containers from the site. The money raised from the sale of the units will be invested back into the allotments. The final container is being gifted to the charity One Seed Forward.

Excess produce is collected every Thursday throughout the harvesting season by The Allotment Market Stall (TAMS) and sold from sites within the main Aberdeen parks. Income from sales either goes back to the allotments, to cover TAMS overheads, or to fund projects to help the community. Some of the produce also goes to foodbanks.

The notice board at the entrance is up to date and includes good information.

A new greenhouse has been installed. The group had great fun building this! It will be used by everyone to grow on seeds etc.

The idea to have an upcycling / recycling hub is fantastic! I love the idea of recycling and repurposing old, vintage tools, selling them to raise funds for the allotment. Brilliant!

Most plot holders grow a mixture of vegetables and/or flowers and are particularly keen to include pollinator friendly plants and areas within their plots, which is actively encouraged. This is obviously a successful effort, attested to by the number of insects, bees, and other pollinators across the site.

## **Gardening Achievement**

The group has been allowing grass to grow and encouraging wildflowers in some areas. The group mow paths to ensure the areas are still accessible. These areas attract pollinating insects to the area benefitting all the plots.

Yellow rattle is being planted to help tame the grass.

There is a wide range of plants grown throughout the various plots, and the quality and quantity of produce is excellent, both in all kinds of flowers and all kinds of vegetables. Many plot holders grow native wildflowers to attract pollinators.

The site is a fantastic experience to walk round and view all the different plots with their variety of planting. There are colourful displays of fruit, vegetables, and flowers across the site. There have obviously been some bumper crops this year.

There are some new plotters on site, and they have added their own personalities and ideas to their plots which is great to see.





Scotmid donated trees in the community orchard are doing well.

Most of the plots are maintained to a very high standard and the site and local environment in general is very well cared for.

**LEVEL ACHIEVED**

**Level 5 – Outstanding**

**Areas of achievement:**

Garthdee Allotments Association continues to develop and grow. They are an outstanding Its Your Neighbourhood group.

This group should be congratulated on their Green Flag status. They are one of only two allotments in Scotland to achieve this award and they should be very proud of this achievement.

The group are welcoming and very enthusiastic. It is obvious they love what they do and have real pride in what they have achieved to date.

The idea to recycling and repurposing old, vintage tools is tremendous, and I look forward to hearing more about this.

The new cabin is fantastic and an asset to the group.

Garthdee Allotments Association is an absolute joy to visit and a very special place. It is an outstanding Its Your Neighbourhood group and deserves all the plaudits that come its way!

Congratulations on such a fantastic site and well done to everyone involved.

**Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor:**

Continue to engage with young people of all ages. The work that is being done with Kaimhill Primary School is fantastic.

Then community and volunteer days are great.

Continue to work with and communicate to all plotters. It is important that they feel involved and have a voice.

Continue to maintain a good rapport with Aberdeen City Council for the benefit of the allotments, and to follow up plot holders with problems.

Continue to involve yourselves in Keep Scotland Beautiful and Aberdeen City Council's environmental campaigns such as Clean Up Aberdeen.

Promote the great work being done at every opportunity i.e., enter for awards, involve local media.





## RESULTS

Level	Description
Level 1	Establishing
Level 2	Improving
Level 3	Advancing
Level 4	Thriving
Level 5	Outstanding

