



It's Your
Neighbourhood



PART OF THE
Keep Scotland Beautiful
CHARITY

IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Garthdee Field Allotment Association	Assessment date: 4th August 2015
Name of assessor:	Jim Henderson
Introduction: The Association has been in existence since 2010, although there have been allotments on this site for far longer. They are enthusiastic about developing the area in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, Robert Gordon University, and Kaimhill Primary School.	
Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)	
1. New allotment holders are supported with gardening advice and are started off on micro plots. The group has been very successful in moving the first novice gardeners onto full size plots, with excellent results. 2. A community orchard was set up in 2009. 3. The association contributes surpluses to a local allotment market stall (TAMS) in Aberdeen, which operates a collection service from allotment sites. 4. RGU has a close association with GFAA and has helped with design (barbecue area) and provision of raised beds. 5. Students from the university are provided with a plot funded by £10K from the Climate Challenge Fund, which includes a polytunnel. 6. There are regular monthly meetings for co-operative site maintenance (grass cutting, hedge cutting, collection and disposal of waste, etc.) 7. There are volunteers working with the group purely on site maintenance, who are happy to be involved in this way, but do not want the responsibility of an allotment. 8. Training courses on gardening are well attended and the local primary school visit regularly for basic gardening tuition on their own plot. 9. There is a birds and bugs trail through the Fields for the children. 10. The group is building up a relationship with the local prison service to offer rehabilitation work for prisoners due release. It is also providing work for prisoners in its woodworking shop, making benches and a pergola from recycled timbers. 11. Site news is advertised on a display board, sited on the side of the bothy. 12. An annual scarecrow competition is held.	
Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	35
Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)	
The group is engaged in environmental activities such as: 1. All plotters manage their own composting. 2. Areas are set aside for primary school and university use. 3. Meetings are held in the RGU premises nearby. 4. An Eco toilet has been constructed on the site which enables the school children to use the site.	



5. Bird feeders, bird boxes, and bug houses are sited around the area. There is a camera recording wild life on one allotment.
6. A wildflower meadow has been established this year, with some success.
7. 2,000 bulbs were planted last autumn by the allotment holders.

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) 1. A great variety of fruit, veg, and flowers are grown on the plots, including maize, asparagus, artichokes and oca. 2. Composting is encouraged, and marine and mushroom compost is available. 3. The prevalence of pigeons has resulted in protective netting being used. 4. There are several very experienced gardeners on the site who freely give advice to all, and are very helpful. 5. Plotters are encouraged to develop the areas around their plots with wild flowers. 6. The use of small plots to start off new plotters is encouraged. 7. Novice gardeners have been successfully enthused, to the overall benefit of the site.	
Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	27
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	89
LEVEL ACHIEVED	OUTSTANDING

Areas of achievement:

1. Close involvement with the nearby University has resulted in students and staff contributing to help the development of the site.
2. The training, help and advice given to novice gardeners is outstanding, and is freely given.
3. A regular newsletter encourages all plot holders to get involved, and gives help and advice.
4. The Eco toilet is an innovative achievement, and has facilitated the education of the school children.
5. Work with the Prison Service is a major achievement, in an area that has not been looked at before.

Areas for development:

1. Provision of facilities for Special Needs should be considered again, as demand will be encouraged if facilities are seen to be in place. It may be useful to liaise with Grampian Health Trust to develop this.

RESULTS

Level	Description	Points
Level 1	Establishing	0-35
Level 2	Improving	36-52
Level 3	Developing	53-68





Level 4	Thriving	69-85
Level 5	Outstanding	86-100

