

# **Kirkliston Community Conservation Volunteers**

## **Chair Report September 2024**

This report is to document our work and achievements from October 2023 to September 2024.

### **Sponsored Planters**

This year was the Kirkliston Gala Centenary so in conjunction with the Gala Committee we decided to plant up the planters with red, white and blue flowers. We had assistance from Robert Eves, who advised on the flowers to use. He also purchased them for us at trade prices, which was a great saving. We have received a lot of compliments on the planters and residents have commented that they make a massive difference to the village.

After the planter at the Newliston had been damaged by the Contractor's working at the Crossroads, we eventually got it replaced. We have kept the old one to try and repair it and will hopefully find a sponsor for this next year.

We now have a new sponsor for the three-tier planter and we will be putting another railing planter on Queensferry Road taking the total there to six.

### **Barrel Planters**

We continue to maintain and water the barrel planters around the village. Two more will be getting planted up to put on Path Brae to brighten up another part of the village.

### **Litter Picking**

We continue to litter pick the last Sunday of every month where we target a different part of the village each time. We are still hoping to encourage more people to join us.

### **Community Garden**

The seating area needs to be rubbed down and varnished. More paving needs to be added around the seated area and to make the garden more accessible to wheelchairs and buggies.

It was decided this year that the garden beds would be opened up to the public, Helen managed to find two people – Pete and Malathi to take a bed each and Pemma took the other as a community bed. Pemma tried to start a Wednesday afternoon session for the young family and home education community with not much success, however she continued to attend at the designated time slot for her own enjoyment and often Pete and/or Malathi would join which created some community feeling.

Three events were planned for the Summer, in August we welcomed Nadia from the Botanics as she gave us a talk about Pollinators and biodiversity and brought some

lovely plants with her so we could plant up a 'nectar café'. This was well attended with 6 people joining us and some lovely feedback given.

The community celebration that was planned was cancelled due to lack of resource at the time.

The third event, Nadia came back to help us make bee hotels for solitary bees to lay their eggs in. This was well attended again with 14 individuals, each family being able to take a bee hotel home with them. The children got to pick an apple each and dig up an onion, some of them picking and shelling peas to snack on during the workshop.

Nadia will be coming back in the spring (date tbc) for more workshops. Nadia has managed to offer some very good advice on how we can better utilise the space we have in the garden, Pemma has some proposals as to how this can be done – based on Nadia's advice.

Pemma is also in touch with Woodland Trust who can offer a talk to the local community, the idea will be to find a venue and invite other community groups to join us like Scouts, Brownies and Boys Brigade as an example.

Things grown in the community bed include: Peas, Onions, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Kohlrabi, Spinach, Chard, Chives, Parsley, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Marigolds, Nasturtium, Borage, Thyme, Lady's Mantle, Shallots, Sweet Potato, Sunflowers. Some have been harvested already and given to passers-by, visitors to garden and Ann who provides us with water. Some not ready to be harvested yet. Seed harvesting has been on going.

The edging beds that house the Strawberries, Blackcurrents, Redcurrents, Apple tree, Plum Tree, Rhubarb, ornamental and herbs have been maintained as part of the community bed remit.

Hoping to host one last event before the year is up for harvesting, overwinter planting and tidy up of the garden but tbc for date and capability.

## **Community Fridge**

The total amount of food saved from going to landfill for the first eight months of the second year was 9,101kg and with 2,003 recorded visits. December 2023 was their first birthday which was celebrated with a big party, including Singing Mamas, craft table, Secret Santa stall and home baking. Planning for the second birthday party is underway – which may include some fundraising.

They started taking in deliveries from Fareshare which increased the amount of food going to the public dramatically.

Matty was promoted to Supervisor, Key Manager and Fareshare coordinator. Helen and Valerie to Volunteer Coordinators and Karen to Administrative Support. They are currently looking at all of the roles at the Fridge and within the action team (strategic planning meeting monthly) to see where they may have gaps and recruit accordingly.

The shed outside Thomas Chalmers centre was built in June and the final touches are being added before opening. The shed will make the Fridge more accessible to more people as it will not be tied to when the hall is free. They hope to have a grand opening event (details tbc). A cheque was received from Kirkliston Primary School, after some fundraising. They intend to buy a very fancy sign for the shed!

They have done a few 'pop-ups' where they hand out bags of food and leaflets to raise awareness, a few more are planned at Gateside and another at the school near the school where they hand out bags of food and leaflets.

Thought is being put into what workshops can put on to expand the Waste Not message beyond food – i.e. repair workshops etc

### **Friends of Pikes Pool Park**

The group have been going for five years and their aim was to preserve and maintain the park for all. Their main achievements include planting an orchard, getting rubber posts donated, doing clean ups and getting a path established between Masson Close through the lower part of the park giving access to the school. Unfortunately, this year they were looking for a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary but none of their volunteers came forward and it looked like the group would fold. They approached KCCV to ask if we would take FPPP under our umbrella. It would be a shame to see all their hard work go to waste as the Council are more likely to help and give priority to organised groups. Lynne Morrison, one of their volunteers, offered to come over to our group and to continue looking after the orchard. Welcome to Lynne! We look forward to working with you.

### **Manse Road Gardens (Memorial Garden)**

We have continued to maintain the gardens.

### **Community Involvement**

We are always trying to encourage members of the community to get involved. We had a stall at the Gala Day where we had a tombola and sold plants. This was successful as a fundraiser and raising awareness of KCCV.

We took over the flower bed across from the Community Centre on Queensferry Road. It was a very laborious job weeding the area but once done we were able to plant it up with a variety of perennial plants/shrubs donated by the Inch Nursery. This is going to be an ongoing project as the weeds are prolific.

Helen has been involved with the Guides who helped her plant a wild flower bed in Stirling Road, it was very successful as it looked great and encouraged lots of bees! We received a lot of lovely comments so maybe this can be extended.

The benches on Path Brae and the Funeral Directors were uplifted by the Council for refurbishment but unfortunately the Path Brae one was beyond repair. We have been able to arrange funding (detailed below) to replace this and it will hopefully be in place before the end of the year.

We applied to It's Your Neighbourhood as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful and Britain in Bloom organisations. We had a site visit and are awaiting the report. This took in the garden and planters and pikes pool. We want to apply to Britain in Bloom for next year so will keep an eye out on when applications open. There are lots of events we can get involved in for next year if we so choose/have the capacity.

### **Funding/Donations**

We received £750 funding from the Almond Partnership group to go towards the £2,525 needed for the bench. Kirkliston Community Council donated £600 and the remaining coming from an anonymous donor.

Helen secured £200 from the Scotmid Community fund and we were able to purchase a flag for our litter picks and the seeds for the wild flower bed.

£700 was received from the Edinburgh Airport Community fund which we are going to use to purchase a shed for the community garden.

### **What's next?**

- We will be getting another 1,000 crocus bulbs from the South Queensferry Rotary Club to highlight one of their supported charities. We are hoping to plant another large blue circle on a grassy area on the corner of Stirling Road and Kirklands Park Road to highlight the campaign to eliminate Polio. This will add to the ones on Queensferry Road and Path Brae.