

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our entry for the 2017 Beautiful Scotland campaign. Bonnie Dundee, which is a partnership of Dundee City Council, community groups, organisations and individuals from across the city, continues to take forward Dundee's entry into the City category of Beautiful Scotland. Since last year we have been working hard to increase our marks.

The Bonnie Dundee group has been busy throughout the year, working to help improve the built and natural environment of Dundee. Projects have ranged from litter picks and growing on plants in their shared poly tunnel for their floral displays to providing advice for those setting up new projects.

Dundee City Council have been working on a range of capital projects to improve and enhance the local environment for residents and members of the public and have been continuing to promote the Take Pride in Your City campaign which has been extended to a four year campaign. The annual Garden and Allotment Competition continues to be popular with local residents, businesses, allotment holders and schools. We are also delighted to welcome back the Best Kept Close competition following its introduction last year.

We hope you enjoy our portfolio which shows a sample of the many projects and groups working to make Dundee a brighter, greener and cleaner place to live, work and visit.



Community groups from across Dundee gather at Slessor Gardens to celebrate being awarded the Silver Gilt medal and Community Involvement Award (below) in Beautiful Scotland 2016. (September 2016)



HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

AUTUMN/WINTER



Bonnie Dundee bulb planting at Blackness Court Sheltered Housing (above) and crocus planting (right) at the Technology Park. (November 2016)



Dundee Flower & Food Festival is held annually at Camperdown Park over the first weekend in September. The three day extravaganza includes a large range of competitive classes, stunning displays of flowers (above), cookery demonstrations, live music, children's activities and much more. Dundee's schools get involved too, school bands provide the musical entertainment on Friday and entries are encouraged into the Children's Classes. We are delighted to welcome the British Begonia Society's 12 Board Championship for 2017. (photos September 2016)



Spring Grove, Baxter Park, maintained by Friends of Baxter Park at their monthly volunteer sessions. (November 2016)

In 2016, the Woodlands-4-Yew marquee proved popular at the Flower & Food Festival. It featured environmental and nature themed stalls, demonstrations and activities. It also included a large central display of the Dighty Burn which runs through Dundee. (September 2016)



HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

SPRING



City Churches Display.
(February 2017)



Templeton Woods, one of our parks maintained to Green Flag standards. (May 2017)



Green Flag Awards

Four sites in Dundee received a Green Flag Award in 2016, Baxter Park, Templeton Woods, Barnhill Rock Garden and Trottick Mill Ponds LNR. Dundee Law was put forward as a new site for 2017. The five sites were assessed this year and the outcome will be announced this summer.

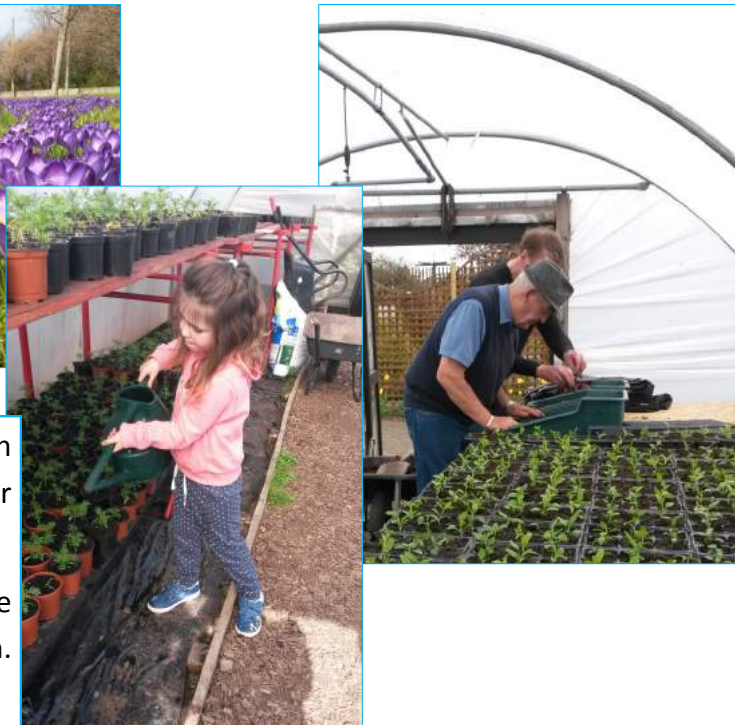
Internal Green Flag Assessments

Dundee City Council carries out 'Internal Green Flag' assessments on a number of Dundee's public parks and open spaces. Using the criteria from the Green Flag Awards, these assessments act as a benchmarking tool. Each rating provides an evidence base for demonstrating continued improvement and ensures a consistent standard, so that over time every area within the city boundary has public parks and open spaces of excellent quality.



The Bonnie Dundee group at work in the poly-tunnel (right), including their youngest member! (April 2017)

Crocuses (above), the result of Bonnie Dundee's winter bulb planting session. (March 2017)



HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

SUMMER



Douglas Community Garden (right) and Ardler Community Garden (above). (August 2016)



The Council's Seabraes bed (left) and East Marketgate (above) floral displays. (August 2016)

Bonnie Dundee worked with Rockwell School and the Overgate on an RHS 'Greening Grey Britain' project to create a calm garden for those who cannot cope with mainstream education. A grey space was dug by the Council's Community Payback Team then planted with seeds to attract pollinators and birds.



Wildflower Meadows

The Council's Neighbourhood Services have been developing wildflower meadow mixes within strategic sites over the last few years. The objective is to establish the optimum approach for developing and converting areas of grass to wildflower meadows.

- High profile city centre sites
- Large areas of grassland with no recreational function, e.g. wide verges
- Labour intensive areas such as steep banks and small areas which are difficult to access and operate machinery.



Orchids at the Stannergate (above), Harris Academy Dry Mix Perennial (left) and Pentland banking cornfield (right). (June 2017)



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



The Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre Litter Pick. (May 2017)

The Council has developed a reed bed area at Riverside to assist with sustainable disposal of post-collected street sweepings.



The 'Take Pride in Your City' campaign, launched in May 2015, is an environmental improvement campaign looking to encourage a positive change in behaviour towards litter, dog fouling, graffiti, fly-tipping and discarded chewing gum. Take Pride aims to encourage people to work together to help improve the city as a cleaner and safer place to live, work and visit.

In 2016 the campaign was extended to four years, during this time a number of initiatives will be united under the Take Pride banner with lots of opportunities for residents to get involved.



Promoting 'Dogs on Leads' at Riverside Nature Park to protect ground nesting birds. (March 2017)

Dundee City Council are working in partnership with Angus Council on a major procurement programme for the long term disposal of residual waste in line with the forthcoming landfill ban.

Litter picks and clean up events have been held by community groups and individuals throughout Dundee. Since July 2016 there have been 13 registered with Clean Up Scotland any many others too, we hope to continue this great work during the next year and get even more people involved.

The Council provides a range of commercial waste services which allow customers to meet all regulatory compliance issues and recycle a significant proportion of their waste. The Council is the main service provider in this sector city-wide, and achieves high levels of customer satisfaction.

Dundee is committed to tackling the challenges climate change will present to the local area. Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions ahead of national targets, adapting to the effects of climate change and re-asserting our low carbon credentials marks the next phase in the transition to a low carbon future.



The Miley Group and Dundee Conservation Volunteers clean up The Miley. (April 2017)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



Hedge planting at Riverside Nature Park with Friends of Riverside Nature Park. (March 2017)

Litter Prevention Action Plans (LPAPs)

Neighbourhood Services are working with Zero Waste Scotland to develop a 'Community' LPAP for Dundee, which will be made up of individual LPAPs from businesses, groups and organisations across the city. The project aims to create a shared responsibility for litter prevention and a collective approach to tackling the issue.



Baldragon Academy pupils gaining their John Muir Award with the Countryside Rangers. (March 17)



The Council is committed to sustainable waste and recycling practices, which are compliant with the National Charter for Household Recycling and has revised its waste and recycling collection methodology, designed to meet the requirements of the new code of practice. The Council continues to strive to meet Scottish Government's challenging recycling targets and the associated policy and legislative drivers. All households in Dundee are now able to recycle glass, paper, card, plastics, food and metals more easily.

As of December 2016, Dundee had the largest Local Authority electric fleet in the UK with 81 vehicles and the largest electric taxi fleet with 56 vehicles. Dundee also has more chargers per head of population than any other UK city, 83% of points in the city are used regularly.

Dundee Green Dog Walkers, a scheme in which volunteer dog walkers act as good ambassadors to encourage other dog walkers to clean up after their dog was launched in December 2016. This is one of the initiatives introduced in the city to promote responsible dog walking.

In Dundee, 69 schools and nurseries are registered with the Eco-Schools programme, of which 11 have a Green Flag.

The Community Re-use Hub, based at Baldovie Recycling Centre, is a business partnership between Dundee City Council and a number of third sector organisations. The Hub opened in September 2015 and was jointly funded by the Council and by grants from Zero Waste Scotland and Big Lottery. Items donated by the public at the Recycling Centre are collected and the reusable items restored by volunteers, who learn new skills and increase their prospect of employment, before the items are redistributed to the local community.

All Council schools have been offered additional resources to increase recycling of food waste. There was an encouraging response to this offer and we continue to provide communications support to schools to promote and embed the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' message.



Launch of Dundee's new cycle map. (March 2017)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



The Family Fresh Air Club at Clatto Country Park above (January 2017) and Dundee Law, (right) in February 2017. The Club is a collaboration between the Countryside Rangers, Community Development and Scottish Natural Heritage to run fun and inclusive outdoor activities in different learning environments around Dundee, a great use of our open spaces.



In Dundee, 14 groups have registered with It's Your Neighbourhood for 2017, they range from community gardening to wildlife groups.



Entries to the Children's Classes at Dundee Flower and Food Festival. (September 2016)



Junior Cross Country Mountain Bike Race Day at Templeton Woods. (October 2016)



Ninewells Community Garden, the official opening of their Leaf Room. (November 2017)

As part of the Dundee Law Heritage Project a Community Participation Officer has been employed to strengthen links with the local community. A Friends of the Law group was developed in 2016 and local schools encouraged to use the site.



Keep Scotland Beautiful held a Beautiful Scotland Regional Advice Seminar in Dundee. Bonnie Dundee and Council Officers provided an example tour. (June 2016)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



Bonnie Dundee meet gardener Carole Baxter at the official opening of William Gardiner Square at the Overgate where they maintain two plant beds. (September 2016)



Countryside Rangers and Dundee Libraries Storytelling event at Balgay Hill. (October 2016)



Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association and Friends of Dundee Law litter pick the Law (February 2017)



Addaction and Signpost International Garden, a memorial garden for quiet reflection (Summer 2017). A grey area was turned into a bright, safe, quiet space for families affected by drug or alcohol addiction. Bonnie Dundee provided advice to help get the garden up and running.



Dundee Conservation Volunteers Tree Planting on Dundee Law. (April 2017)



School & Nursery Garden Competition entry from St Luke's and St. Matthew's RC Primary (June 2017)

As part of the Council's Neighbourhood Services review, capital funding has been allocated in 2016/17 to allow major landscape improvement projects. The proposed projects have been designed to improve and enhance the local environment for residents and members of the public.



Fairmuir Park Landscape Improvements before (September 2016) and after (June 2017).



£50,000 funding was provided for the Tay View Community Garden (pictured May 2017) through Grantscape from decommissioning company Augean, who recently located into Dundee's docks.

FINANCE



The Council's Neighbourhood Services have made changes to maintenance regimes for both financial and environmental benefit. For example green spaces will be allowed to 'naturalise' in selected areas around the city, such as sites with difficult access (e.g. steep slopes), low active use (e.g. roadsides) and areas which have been identified as important for biodiversity. The objective is to decrease the need for frequent mowing and introduce a less intensive form of grass management.

The Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme is assisting in directing investment into upgrading roundabout planting, there are currently 21 sponsored roundabouts in the city.

Coca-Cola's ParkLives are working with Leisure and Culture Dundee to offer a programme of free activities for all ages. The scheme launched in May 2016 in six of Dundee's parks, this has developed to 19 locations throughout the city for 2017.

Dundee Law Heritage Project

The Dundee Law Heritage Project is a two year Heritage Lottery funded initiative to make improvements to this iconic Dundee landmark. Work was carried out during 2016/17 to improve access to the site (pictured below), with further improvements and community involvement planned for the future.



At least £1,000 from Tesco Bags of Help has been guaranteed to replace the skins on the polytunnels used by Bonnie Dundee, Broughty Ferry in Bloom and SAMH at Duntrune Community Garden. Other projects in Dundee have benefited from this fund in the past including Bonnie Dundee's garden at Slessor Gardens, installation of a composting toilet by Friends of Riverside Nature Park and The Attic Community Garden and Orchard.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Council are looking to develop the reach of the Take Pride in Your City campaign, with a particular focus on dog fouling and school related litter during 2017. They will also encourage the creation of Litter Prevention Action Plans.

Froglife will be building 2 ponds in Dundee over the summer, one at the new Tay View Community Garden and the other at Riverside Nature Park. Each will have safe access, so that visitors can enjoy the wildlife that they will attract.

In October 2016 the Council agreed that 15 of Dundee's school grounds will be opened up for community use. Improving community access to the school grounds and play facilities within them has the potential to enhance the health and well being of those living in the local community.

Dundee Law Heritage Project

This two year project includes a range of enhancements to the Law as well as measures to encourage recreational use of the site by the people of Dundee.

Future plans include new signage and interpretation, a 'Town to Top' trail to encourage the public to explore the Law from the city centre, plus an exciting digital project which includes a new interactive website.

Bonnie Dundee and the Council are working together to access funding to replace the existing trees in their Union Street planters during autumn 2017.

The Dundee Fairness Commission's May 2016 report, 'A Fair Way to Go' recommended increasing community gardens and projects for low cost food and to create social and community connections. In Financial Year 2016/17 the Council has committed £100,000 to the creation of community gardens. The Tay View Community Garden opened in June 2017 and there are further plans to create a new community garden in Lochee.

In early June the Council agreed Dundee's Biodiversity Duty report which highlighted the City's biodiversity actions over the past 5 years. The report also looks towards future actions. In 2018, all of the 35 Locally Important Nature Conservation Sites will be assessed updating the survey which was carried out in 2000. This information will inform a Biodiversity Duty Action Plan.

Dundee City Council is continuing to make major investments in the environment through the development of the Waterfront Project. Work is progressing on the new V&A Museum and Railway Station with a view to opening them in 2018.

Dundee's Smart Waste Project is part of the Scottish Cities Alliance, which is being jointly funded by Dundee City Council and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) monies. The project aims to make services across Scotland's seven cities become more efficient and greener through the use of data and digital technologies. The trial project is looking at the deployment of a range of smart technology including smart litter bins with sensors to alert waste services to empty the bins only when they are full and solar powered compactor bins to compact the waste with the aim of improving efficiency.

APPENDIX



Dog owners help Take Pride
 The Green Dog Walkers initiative asks volunteers to sign a pledge promising to clean up after their pet and to give out spare waste bags to those without - along with a friendly reminder to others to clean up.

Those who pledge will be easy to recognise as they will sport arm bands and their dogs will wear bandanas. Neighbourhood Services convener John Alexander said: "By becoming a Green Dog Walker, you will be an ambassador for good practice and encourage others to leave only paw prints behind them."

Even Tele 26/12/16



Storytime at Balgay Hill
 All things autumnal were the subject of a special junior story time session held at Balgay Hill, Dundee City Council's regular Library to highlight to children the city's many green spaces and the facilities available at libraries. The event took place as part of the council's Take Pride in Your City campaign, which aims to motivate residents to help in the effort to prevent litter, dog fouling, chewing gum, fly-tipping and graffiti by highlighting to children the city's many green spaces and the facilities available at libraries.

Even Tele 17/10/16

LOCAL BULLETIN INVESTMENT

£400,000 improvements in city parks revealed by authority
 Dundee City Council plans to spend £400,000 upgrading city play parks. Dawson and Victoria parks are in line for new play equipment and environmental improvements are on the cards for Camperdown and Dudhope parks, as well as Hawthill and



City parks come alive
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LOCAL BULLETIN BEAUTIFUL SCOTLAND

Green-fingered community groups being sought
 Entrants are being sought for this year's Beautiful Scotland awards. Dundee community groups are being asked to register for the competition - set up as part of environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful's efforts to deliver environmental improvements at a local level. Groups interested in entering their local greenspace for the competition have until July to do so, and can enter via the Beautiful Scotland website. Judging will take place in August, and finalists will be invited through to a national grand final in Dumfermline in September.

Entrants were recognised for their outstanding contribution. Derek Robertson, chief executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: "Beautiful Scotland and its Your Neighbourhood give us the opportunity to reward the efforts of the amazing volunteers who work tirelessly year after year to ensure Scotland's cities, towns, villages and local communities are maintained to excellent standards. "Communities are doing their bit to keep local spaces in Dundee clean, green and beautiful and all too often these efforts are overlooked. "Beautiful Scotland and its Your Neighbourhood are an annual celebration of the outstanding achievements of thousands of volunteers who enhance the areas they live in, and are an opportunity to put their efforts in the national spotlight."



Airport's fire rescue team help clean up Invergowrie Bay
 A fire rescue team from Dundee City Council's Invergowrie Bay station has helped clean up the bay. The team was called to the bay to help with a fire on a boat. The fire was extinguished and the boat was towed to safety. The fire rescue team then helped clean up the bay, removing debris and litter.

Sky lanterns banned from council events

Grounded: Release of helium-filled balloons also forbidden
 Dundee City Council has banned the release of helium-filled balloons and sky lanterns at all council events. The ban is in place to protect the environment and public safety. The release of balloons and sky lanterns can be dangerous and can cause damage to property and the environment. The council will also provide information on how to dispose of balloons and sky lanterns responsibly.

Latest recycling rollout for thousands of homes

Dundee City Council is rolling out a new recycling service for thousands of homes. The new service will include a weekly collection of recycling bins. The council will also provide information on how to use the recycling bins correctly. The new service is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

I've only just started coming and it's good for the children

One of the Parklife organisers David Hay with Maria Smith. The Parklife programme is a series of activities for children in parks across Dundee. The programme includes games, crafts, and other fun activities. The programme is designed to encourage children to spend more time in parks and to enjoy the outdoors.

Dundee's 'full' ahead of flower and food festival

Dundee is set to host a 'full' ahead of flower and food festival. The festival will feature a variety of stalls selling fresh produce, flowers, and other goods. There will also be live music and other entertainment. The festival is expected to be a popular event for residents and visitors alike.

Views from nature park are now greatly improved
 The views from the nature park are now greatly improved. The council has completed a project to clear up the park and improve the surrounding area. The project included removing litter, cutting back overgrown vegetation, and planting new trees and shrubs. The council is pleased with the results and hopes that the improved views will encourage more people to visit the park.

Council to discuss litter prevention action plan

A new litter prevention action plan for Dundee, supported by communities and businesses, could take the city's Take Pride campaign to the next level. Zero Waste Scotland has developed a model that can be used to cut down litter on city streets and help to prevent fly-tipping. John Alexander, convener of the city council's neighbourhood services committee, said: "If the scheme gets backing from the committee we will be the first council in the country to use an approach that will take a far more collaborative and targeted attitude to littering. "No one wants to live where the streets, green areas and parks are blighted by litter and, while our Take Pride in Your City Campaign is a tremendous success, this will give it a shot in the arm and take it to another level. "Building on the aims of the Take Pride in Your City Campaign, the project team will collaborate with council services areas and external stakeholders to help develop individual action plans which feed into a community wide scheme. If the proposal gets the green light from councillors on Monday around 75 individual organisations will be engaged to generate the Litter Prevention Action Plan with specific tasks outlining what they will do to prevent litter and fly-tipping. These will feed into the overarching community level plan for Dundee allowing collaboration across multiple sectors and providing a platform for co-ordinated activity that will achieve a greater collective impact."

Improved paths open at Dundee Law

New walk and improved paths have been opened at Dundee Law. The new paths will provide a safe and accessible route for people to walk and jog. The paths will also be landscaped with new plants and trees. The council is pleased with the results and hopes that the improved paths will encourage more people to use the Law.



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City blossoming
 The city is blossoming with new plants and trees. The council has completed a project to plant new trees and shrubs in various locations across the city. The project is part of the council's commitment to improve the city's environment and create a greener city. The council is pleased with the results and hopes that the new plants and trees will improve the city's appearance and provide a better environment for residents and visitors alike.

