



DUNDRENNAN JUBILEE PROJECT – FINAL REPORT April 2013

Milestone 3 completed 4/6/2012

**All outstanding work completed in garden and for walk.
Launch event held on 4/6/2012**



**Meadow Mix sown – April
Bark chips laid for path - April
Pond completed - May
Decking/bandstand area completed - May
Planting completed – May/June
Children’s area completed – May
Furnishings for walk installed – May
Interpretation boards installed – May
Leaflets printed – May
Litter bins installed – June
Wooden sculpture installed – June**

Fencing completed – May

Launch event – June

Building painted and chips laid on path at rear of building – May

BBQ built - May

Related activities

Two site visits were made from LEADER in May and July. Radio Scotland visited the site and interviewed the children for a broadcast of the Beechgrove Garden who were featuring gardens for the Diamond Jubilee.

Background –

The project was developed following consultation with the community through meetings where ideas were sought to celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. The village hall has been undergoing some renovation and it seemed appropriate to convert the land to the rear of the premises into a functional garden.

Who was involved -

There were several groups and individuals involved and these are all listed on the thank you letter which was sent out to everyone.

Aims of the project -

The aims and objectives of the project was to create a useful and functional garden which would be of benefit for the local community and have value as a wildlife habitat. The pathway which has been enhanced with furnishings, information and access stiles/gates has encouraged walkers (local and visitors to the area) to use the route, and learn about the village.

How was the funding package assembled ?-

The funding for the whole project was obtained via LEADER, D & G Council , Awards for All, Eon (Community Benefit) and SWEAT. **LEADER provided £11, 596.**

When did it take place-

The project started in Sept 2011 and was completed in June 2012 where a launch event was staged.

Launch event



Invitations were sent to all households within the community boundary and also to other significant guests such as our funders, local business etc. We had a total of 108 replies confirming attendance.

The launch of the project and the event was officially opened by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Lt Colonel Sir Malcolm Ross at 12 noon.

Catering – several volunteers within the community formed a group and arranged catering for the day. A pig was supplied by a local farmer for our hog roast and several volunteers took a turn at the spit from 6am until lunchtime.

A large commemorative cake was also provided for the day.

Music was provided by some local musicians and some Royal film footage was displayed on a rolling programme in one corner of the hall. A guided walk round the path was kindly provided by one of our Countryside Rangers.



A local resident kindly donated some time and took photographs for the day.

Some display boards were also set up charting the progress of the project with lots of pictures.

What actually happened ? -

The overall project has seen a derelict piece of land transformed into a garden with a pond, community orchard, BBQ and furnishings. This involved physical work including clearance, planting and building. The path has become more interesting and accessible to all with interpretation boards and signage installed along with access gates and stiles.

How was it delivered ?-

The work undertaken incorporated the use of contractors and volunteers using machinery and physical labour.

What marketing was undertaken ?-

Publicity for the project has been through local press, Radio Scotland, the launch event and the leaflet which was designed for the walk.

Who benefitted ?-

It is hoped that all those who took part in the creation of the garden and path have benefitted in some way, either through financial gain, work experience, community involvement, creation and display of their artwork etc.

How did the final budget turn out ?-

Original estimation of the cost of the budget was higher than actual. As we were new to developing a project, we used the advice and expertise of another similar project to help gauge costs.

What worked well for us ? -

The support provided by staff at LEADER has been invaluable. Always helpful and willing to give advice especially with claims. The workshops were really good.

Advice from relevant sources such as planting the right orchard trees, hedging etc for the area- Orchard and Wild Harvest Project.

Also invaluable advice relating to the walk from the Countryside Access team.

Local knowledge of the area and its history – provided by community members.

Having local artists to design and supply our wooden furnishings/sculpture.

Having Auchencairn Primary School involved. The school has a very positive attitude to the children being involved in local community projects. The children designed and planted up their own patch of garden. They also made use of the old crockery/nails/rubble which they dug up by creating some lovely artwork. Their mosaics have been displayed in the garden.



Keeping a record/diary through photographs and written reports to track our progress

Having one local farmer on side who assisted greatly in the viewpoint area by donating a small piece of land and arranging fencing (this part of the project is only part funded via LEADER) An extension period for the project was granted in order to carry out a disability access audit. This was provided by Capability Scotland in February 2013 and will enable the Committee to seek further funding for the future to provide more appropriate access to the garden area for people with mobility and visual impairments.

What was not so positive ?

Finding trustworthy contractors at the right price ! We did feel a bit let down by some of the work undertaken and had to do a bit more ourselves to make good within the garden. Inexperience on our side may have played a part here, though we did always try to get several quotes and speak with individuals. – **Perhaps a list could be drawn up with contractors who have been used by others and proved successful which might benefit future projects.**

Our bank is not always helpful in relation to business requirements. It would have been helpful to have access to online banking where we could track transactions regularly and follow our progress. This unfortunately is not an option for our organisation. We are also supplied quarterly with bank statements which is not so useful for making claims on a more regular basis.

Any additional statements requested incur a charge and can take a few weeks to arrive. – **I would advise future applicants to check banking system of their bank to ensure it will meet requirements, prior to undertaking their project.**

Another local farmer who had confirmed vehicular access to the site through his field then withdrew his agreement. This caused us difficulty in getting materials etc onto the site and also meant that some of the work did not reach the standard we hoped for. – **This issue is being monitored by the Countryside Access Team should the individual withdraw consent for pedestrians.**

Will the project be mainstreamed or transferred ? -

The garden and path will remain a community resource and management will be overseen by the Community Council and Hall Committee.

Sustainability of the project -

As above. The garden will be used as an additional facility for the village hall. It is available for private hire and the managing Committee will also arrange regular events, e.g bulb planting and tree pruning which will have an educational aspect. The childrens area is available to them as an ongoing project and they can change their theme, design, planting as they wish. Long term maintenance for the project has been considered and part time employment is being offered locally. It is currently being maintained by volunteers and some paid help.

How did we address the issue raised in the LEADER application -**How can we strengthen community and civic spirit ?**

The project has brought people together and the garden now compliments the community hall. The facilities in the village have been greatly improved and there is a programme of activities. There is a renewed interest to develop this and in 2013 for the first time Dundrennan will host events for Day of the Region and a Spring Fling fringe event.