



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Friockheim Park Community Volunteers	Assessment date: 01/08/2022
Name of assessor:	Wendy Murray

Introduction:

Friockheim Park was established in January 2020 and became a constituted group with its own bank account in April 2022. The group work in partnership with Angus Council to look after the park and other areas in the village. The park is arguably the most important amenity space in Friockheim and is heavily used by individuals and families all year round. The group also enhance and help to maintain the public toilets and carry out improvements to the wider environment.

Section A - Community Participation (40%)

- The core group consists of approximately 20 regular volunteers but can attract much larger numbers of volunteers for specific events. The group is largely led by younger adults who are inclusive and welcoming of volunteers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- The group have become very skilled at applying for grants and donations and have successfully obtained funds from organisations such as the National Lottery, SeaGreen, and Arnold Clark.
- The group have been extremely successful at persuading companies across Scotland to support their activities by way of donating goods and services. The group even managed to persuade different local authorities such as Glasgow, Falkirk, Aberdeen and Fife to provide them with bags for litter picking.
- The group have developed a very productive partnership with Angus Council Parks Department. They work collaboratively and make joint decisions about how to improve and maintain certain areas. This has led to good outcomes for everybody.
- The group are active on social media and have their own Facebook page.
- The group have coped well with adversity over the last few years. Disappointingly there has been significant vandalism on occasion, such as toilets and bins being set on fire and other infrastructure damaged within the park. All incidents are reported to the Police. The group are doing everything within their power to respond positively and encourage people to take pride and respect in their environment.
- The leader of the group, James Anderson recently won a Young Scot of the Year Award.
- The group collaborate with other anti-littering and environmental groups across Angus.
- Angus Council provide a lock up garage free of charge which, in addition to storing all their materials, also doubles up as a base and a meeting place for volunteers.
- Friockheim Park is a Keep Scotland Beautiful Litter Hub and the group are



proactive in ensuring that all those interested in helping to keep their areas clean and green have access to litter picking equipment.

Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30%)

- The park is divided into four discreet areas. A children's play area, two football pitches, a formal area and a car park. The group work across all areas and have helped to fund some of the benches/picnic tables.
- The group helped to install and paint wooden car park bollards to prevent cars being driven onto the football pitch and, in some cases, being abandoned.
- The group have invested heavily in appropriate signage across the park to reduce littering of all types and increase respect.
- The group have painted litter bins, benches and other infrastructure within the park to a very high standard.
- The group have facilitated the building of steps in the car park and the installation of handrails to help people access the football pitches more easily.
- The group arranged for a 'Cash for Kids' recycling bin to be placed in the car park which has two electric charging points.
- The group provide a huge amount of support to ensure that the public toilets next to the car park are maintained to a very high standard. They open and close the toilets every day, assist with cleaning and also purchase/obtain cleaning supplies.
- The group undertake daily litter picks across the amenity.
- The group rake over the sand in the children's play park every morning to remove needles which may have been left by drug users.
- Angus Council provide a free Green Bin service.
- The group have obtained a salt spreader and provide a wonderful service to the local community in winter months by gritting icy roads and paths.

Section C - Gardening Achievement (30%)

- The group weed the raised beds in the park.
- The group cut back overhanging tree branches and shrubs from main pathways.
- The group worked with the Parks Department to support the planting of a tree in the Park.

OVERALL LEVEL ACHIEVED

Level 4 - Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Friockheim Park Community Volunteers provide an outstanding service to the community and have excelled in the areas of community participation and environmental responsibility. They work tirelessly to make Friockheim Park and the adjacent toilets attractive and welcoming to all who use them. You are to be commended for the effort you have made to develop partnerships and strong working relationships with so many different individuals and organisations. Well done too on becoming a fully constituted group with your own bank account.





Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor:

- You have lots of ideas and plans in progress which will all continue to improve and enhance the area. The brick shelter is one such project and is a work in progress. If you are able to complete the ground works around the building it will help to protect and conserve what is a beautiful historic shelter.
- You would like to fence off the area at the back of the public toilets to reduce the likelihood of vandalism. This looks as if it would be a helpful strategy and I anticipate that the Police and Angus Council will be keen to offer advice on the installation of CCTV.
- You would like to improve the dedicated area for BBQs in the park. This sounds a really good idea and is an opportunity to reduce bin fires and raise awareness about the proper management of BBQ coals.
- You would like to enhance the formal area of the park by planting up the four formal raised beds. I agree that it will be really helpful to discuss and agree plans with the Parks Department to reduce the risk of vandalism if these areas are planted. I wonder if Friockheim and District Gardening Club would be prepared to get involved? It might be worth talking to them as they could advise on suitable plants and also offer some on-going support. Another idea would be to ask if the Brownies and/or other community groups would like to take responsibility for a raised bed. They might even be interested in growing some edibles. Involving other local groups in this way might help to reduce the risk of vandalism as more people will feel a sense of pride and ownership of the gardens. As your Assessor in 2022, I am happy to chat about this further with you if you feel it would be helpful.

RESULTS

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

