



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Friockheim Park	Assessment date: 11/07/2023
Name of assessor:	Wendy Murray
Introduction: Friockheim Park volunteers became a constituted group in 2020 and take care of several areas across the village. Friockheim is home to around 900 people and retains many local services and facilities. The group work closely with Angus Council and other organisations to keep the village looking as clean, green and welcoming as possible. The park is a wonderful and well used green space in the heart of the village and is enjoyed by both locals and visitors.	
Section A - Community Participation (40%)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This year the group have excelled themselves by rolling out a Summer Fun initiative after obtaining funds from Angus Council. The group have organised 32 fun days where Angus residents can visit the park and access free picnic bags. The park was very busy during my visit with young families taking advantage of the offer and enjoying the amenity. Each bag contains a drink, biscuits and sweets. It is wonderful initiative and a great support during the school holidays when the cost of a day out is so costly.• James works hard all year round to encourage and support volunteers. Around 25 people contribute regularly to clean up events and other core activities. However, a much larger number of residents and supporters involve themselves with 'occasional tasks' to support the group. Friockheim Park is inclusive and welcoming to volunteers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.• This year the group has obtained funds from Angus Council, Bookers and Tayside Contracts. A number of businesses have also contributed supplies.• The group have developed a strong partnership approach with Angus Council Parks and Waste Management services. They make joint decisions about how to improve and maintain certain areas. They even work together on certain tasks. For example, the group helped the Council during a task to install some new play equipment earlier in the year.• The group remain active on social media and have their own Facebook page.• The group work tirelessly to encourage everybody to respect the environment and take pride in their village.	



- The group work closely with other anti-littering and environmental groups across Angus. They participate in the Great Angus Beach Clean and do what they can to encourage people to change littering behaviour.
- The group have been provided with a lock up by Angus Council to store their equipment and provide a base for volunteers.
- Friockheim Park remains a Keep Scotland Beautiful Litter Hub. The group actively support all those interested in litter picking and ensure everybody has access to the equipment they need.
- The group have spent time supporting the local primary school with a project to build a greenhouse out of plastic bottles.
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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 purchased two new benches in 2023.
- The group provide signage across the park to 'nudge' people to recycle and dispose of waste appropriately. The group have installed a number of their own bins to augment those provided by Angus Council.
- The group regularly paint street furniture and touch up play equipment which may have been subject to graffiti. The park looked very clean and well maintained during my visit.
- The group commit a huge amount of time and resources to maintaining the village public toilets. They are extremely clean and welcoming and used by around 100 people a day during the holidays. Free period products are provided from the facility.
- The area was litter free during my visit which was quite remarkable given that the park was so busy. The group undertake daily litter picks across the amenity. Dog walkers in the area are very supportive with the majority picking up after their dogs which indicates respect for the area.
- The group continue to rake over the sand in the children's play park every morning to ensure there are no sharp items which could be damaging to children in bare feet.
- All green waste is recycled by Angus Council.
- The group continue to provide a wonderful service to the community by gritting icy roads and paths during bad weather.

Section C - Gardening Achievement (30%)





- Angus Council lead on the grass cutting and maintenance of trees and shrubs. The group help with any activities that they can. For example, they cut back any overhanging tree branches and have helped to lay bark as a mulch under the trees.
- The group have enhanced a small area to the rear of the toilets. They obtained support from NatureScot, SSSEN and Ashbrooke Nursery to install three beautiful pots with plants for pollinators. They have also sown a few wildflower seeds in the area.

OVERALL LEVEL ACHIEVED

Level 4 - Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Friockheim Park volunteers provide an outstanding service to the community. The village would not be the welcoming and attractive place it is today without their enormous efforts and the pride they take in the amenity.

The way in which they work in partnership with Angus Council is an example to all communities of how local outcomes can be improved by close collaborative working. The park and the public toilets are a credit to the community and contribute significantly to improved health and well-being.

You are particularly commended this year for the innovative 'summer fun' days. Two of these days would have been wonderful but 32 is a huge number and a lot of hard work so well done.

Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor:

- Continue to maintain the strong links you have developed with Angus Council and other statutory agencies. It is not easy coping with the impact of vandalism and anti-social behaviour but you do well keep them informed of events and manage them calmly. You can only hope that over time people will realise how fortunate they are to have volunteers who care so much about the amenity.
- You have ambitious plans to deliver on a tree planting project in partnership with The Woodland Trust and Angus Council between November 23 and Spring 24. You intend to plant 30 small hedges, 105 medium saplings and 420 large saplings. This is a wonderful project and might even be something that local Brownie or Scout groups could get involved with.

RESULTS

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

