



# KIRKCALDY TOWN CENTRE



## GROWING KIRKCALDY PORTFOLIO 2024





# Contents

## **Page 3**

Introduction

## **Page 4**

Growing Kirkcaldy

## **Page 4**

Horticulture

## **Page 8**

Environmental Responsibility

## **Page 10**

Community Participation

## **Page 13**

Support & Funding

## **Page 14**

Future Plans

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Map
- Appendix 2 – Extract of the Volunteer Hours Log
- Appendix 3 – Hanging Basket Plan
- Appendix 4 – Example of a Planning Sheet
- Appendix 5 – Love Oor Lang Toun Growing Kirkcaldy Network list
- Appendix 6 – Draft accounts for 2023 – 2024
- Appendix 7 – Growing Kirkcaldy Network List



## INTRODUCTION

Kirkcaldy, situated on the south coast of Fife, on the Forth Estuary, is a town with an estimated population of 50,370 (mid 2020 est). The town rapidly grew along its coastline becoming known as "The Lang Toun". Its many industries included coal mining and the production of linen, linoleum, pottery (e.g. Wemyss Ware) and rope. Forbo Nairn still produces linoleum for the local and international market.



Kirkcaldy's three beautiful parks, Beveridge Park, Ravenscraig Park and Dunnikier Country Park, were all originally donated to the town from wealthy landowners' and/or benefactors' estates. In these we have a typical Victorian Park, a seaside park and a country park.

The parks have received green flag awards from Beautiful Scotland and two Kirkcaldy beaches (Seafeld and Pathhead Sands) received blue flag awards. Maintenance of the beach areas and the coastal path is carried out by the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust and their volunteers. These beaches suffered severe damage during the storms early in 2024.



The 'Lang Toun' of Kirkcaldy has vastly expanded over the years to incorporate the old parishes of Linktown, Dysart, Sinclairtown and Gallatown along with housing developments built northwards from the sea. Today, there are broadly ten main housing areas with their unique communities, surrounded by a wealth of green spaces. However, there are also several derelict sites and areas of multiple deprivation (ref Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics 2016

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/a448dd2a-9197-4ea0-8357-c2c9b3c29591/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-simd-2016>).

Kirkcaldy has been twinned with Ingolstadt in Bavaria since 1962. Before the pandemic, members of Growing Kirkcaldy helped to plan and plant a Scottish garden in Ingolstadt at their Bavarian Garden Festival. Three carousel horses were placed there symbolising Kirkcaldy through the famous Links Market.





A model of the centre of Ingolstadt has been gifted to the town in celebration of 60 years of partnership. This has been placed in the Town Square.

## Judging Area

In this entry to Beautiful Scotland we are focusing on an area defined by a circle of radius 0.5 miles (appendix 1). This includes our High Street and a large part of our Esplanade as well as our Library, Museum, Town House, Railway Station, Bus Station, some churches and Theatres. It also touches on one of our three parks – The Beveridge Park.

## GROWING KIRKCALDY



Growing Kirkcaldy (GK) is a voluntary group that has strong partnerships with the Community and Fife Council – our aim is to promote the environment of Kirkcaldy in the widest sense. The group networks with, and provides support for, many local groups, businesses and schools as well as continuously developing several of its own projects.



GK was created in January 2012 when “Kirkcaldy 4 All” (our former BID company), Fife Council and Kirkcaldy West Community Council aimed to improve the Community involvement in our town. Members of our groups are also actively involved in other groups in the town which enables us to aim to maintain a network which is as wide as possible throughout the town.

The challenges for Growing Kirkcaldy are to plan, extend, improve and make more sustainable the many positive features of our town.

## HORTICULTURE

The “Green Corridor” in the town centre leads from the Railway Station, through the Memorial Gardens to the Town House and Bus Station, and then on to the Waterfront. This pathway has been our main focus this year.

In the past the horticultural planting in the centre of our town was done by Fife Council.





In the main it was seasonal, formal bedding. GK aims to complement this with sustainable perennials which add interest all year round.



## Memorial Gardens

In the Centre of Kirkcaldy, adjacent to the Railway Station, is our War Memorial which includes our Library, Museum and Art Gallery. In 2025 the War Memorial and Art Gallery will be 100 years old and work is planned to celebrate this centenary. These buildings stand in the former grounds of Balsusney House and are known locally as "The Memorial Gardens".



In a corner of the memorial Gardens adjacent to the Railway Station, there was an area which was overgrown, gloomy and unattractive.

Supported by Fife Council arboreal team, we created a "stumpery". Our team visited North Berwick to see their planting and staff from Edinburgh Botanic Gardens came to Kirkcaldy to advise on suitable plants.

We recycled plants from the train station planters and old temporary wooden planters.



We added donated plants and those we had stored at Ravenscraig Walled Garden.

The Waterfront development team gave us surplus granite blocks to edge the path and Fife Council supplied the blaes surfacing.

GK recognised that it was not always possible for the Council to look after all the beds in the Memorial Gardens all year round so GK saw the opportunity to take responsibility for beds and planted them with sustainable planting.



On the disbandment of Kirkcaldy Floral Art Club, money was donated to our group to plant an area in memory of a former member who specialised in oriental flower arranging.

We have used this money to plant a bed in the Memorial Gardens in a Japanese style.

Detailed research was undertaken by one of our members before planting took place.

It is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Kirkcaldy Civic Society this year and they have planted a bed as part of their celebrations.



## Waterfront

Although restricted by large scale works along the Waterfront, GK has created new beds and filled planters with sustainable planting to enhance the redeveloped areas.



We aim to expand this work to other areas of the Waterfront.



GK has developed spaces on our Waterfront which were previously grassed or planted with Rosa Rugosa. This is a format we aim to replicate along the Promenade and lessons as to the type of planting we can use have been learned.

We are also slowly working on areas around the car parks replacing the planting with perennials.



As mentioned earlier the storms of January 2024 caused significant damage and destruction along all of Kirkcaldy Bay and there was damage to the planting we had in place.

## Beveridge Park

The Beveridge Park, situated at the west of Kirkcaldy, is a Victorian park created with money bequeathed to the town by Provost Michael Beveridge in 1892.

The Beveridge Park Development group works with Fife Council Grounds Maintenance team to maintain this park which houses Kirkcaldy Rugby Club, Beveridge Park Bowling Club and football pitches. Facilities include a boating pond, a miniature railway, a green gym, children's play areas and a skateboard area. The rose garden has been completely replanted to ensure a memorial to the World War II Land Army was not forgotten.

The fountain has been recommissioned and plans are in place to reinstate a bog garden at the top end of the pond. The Kaleyad is a growing area for young people and there is a community orchard.



## Other Planting



As a group GK takes time to look at underused or difficult to manage spaces in our Town Centre where we can make a difference or create some impact. Aiming to add colour all year round, many bulbs were added to planters and beds all over the centre of town.



With the support of Kirkcaldy West Community Council and Fife Council, hanging baskets, barrier baskets and beehive planters are added to the Town House and the High Street. (appendix 3)



We have planted two of the beehive planters to carry perennial planting adding colour all year round.



Bulbs were planted in all of our areas and planters.



Planting at the Railway Station platforms is looked after by one of our partners - Kirkcaldy Rotary Club. GK has placed barrier baskets at the entrance to the Railway Station.

Barrier baskets have also been sited at:

- Office railings in Wemyssfield adjacent to the Town Square
- The rear entrance to the Town House
- The pumping station on the Waterfront
- The car wash at the Port Brae entrance to the Promenade



We have also positioned beehive planters at the rear of the Town House, the West end of the High St and at the East end of the High St.

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust is one of the groups in our town involved in "It's Your Neighbourhood" achieving a Level 5 – Outstanding Certificate of Distinction for the work done on their grounds.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



Kirkcaldy has changed from a heavily industrialised town with huge factories, coal mines and a persistent "queer - like smell" from linoleum production to an open, well landscaped town with many green spaces.

Additionally the harbour was reopened to allow Carr's flour mill to use sea transport instead of lorries, thus reducing our carbon footprint.



Greener Kirkcaldy is a community-led charity working locally to bring people together, take positive action on the climate emergency and support people through fuel poverty and food insecurity. They deliver a range of projects, events and skills training to achieve the needs and goals of local people – building resilience as a community and working towards a future where everyone can live better and tread more lightly on our planet.

Greener Kirkcaldy has a community building and training kitchen in Kirkcaldy Town Centre and a community garden in East Kirkcaldy. They run the Lang Toun Cycles community bike shop and active travel centre on Kirkcaldy High Street. They also lead the Fife-wide Cosy Kingdom home energy advice service, as well as Climate Action Fife, a Fife-wide partnership project, bringing together individuals, communities, local government and businesses to make Fife a greener and fairer place to live. This includes climate friendly food and growing skills training and engagement.

In 2023, Greener Kirkcaldy won the Climate Community Award at Holyrood Magazine's Climate Action Awards. In 2022, they were accredited as a Gold Climate Literate Organisation by the Carbon Literacy Trust.

Find out more at: [www.greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk](http://www.greenerkirkcaldy.org.uk), [www.climateactionfife.org.uk](http://www.climateactionfife.org.uk) and [www.langtouncycles.org.uk](http://www.langtouncycles.org.uk)

Since Kirkcaldy's BiD company, "Kirkcaldy 4 All", was discontinued a group called "Love Oor Lang Toun" was formed. This group is working to support all retail outlets in the High Street with the vision





of *"Creating a 21st century Kirkcaldy Town Centre that local people will be proud of."*

Plans are in place to re-populate vacant lots and to encourage the use of residential property above the shops and along the High Street. (appendix 5)

The aim is to find a new purpose for this area of the town. [www.loveoorlangtoun.com](http://www.loveoorlangtoun.com)

Like many other towns, the closure of Kirkcaldy High Street stores such as Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores, Debenhams and many more have left vacant lots. In particular a shopping centre was demolished just behind the High Street and it is planned to build houses on this site.

Also this year our former post office – latterly Kitty's nightclub – was destroyed by fire leaving a huge space just beside our Town House.



A former shopping block has been replaced by new flats and coffee shops, new butcher's shop, fish shop and several other small shops are taking over some units. Greener Kirkcaldy has opened a shop in the High Street where they sell, maintain and hire bicycles.

As far as looking after the environment, Fife Council is developing different approaches to their work. Richard Brown (Team Manager, Kirkcaldy & Glenrothes, Grounds Maintenance Service ) has informed us:

*We are in the process of trialling different approaches in reducing chemical usage, although we are in the early stages, we agreed on a Fife wide approach that we would reduce the amount of glyphosate that we spray, and we recognise that some may work more effectively than others. We are in the process of reducing spraying chemical on grass edges, we have reduced the dosage rate of glyphosate that we use in our quad bike, we are even trialling out a new droplet application equipment on a quad bike in Dunfermline.(zero water application)*

***We need to control weeds, and herbicides are our most-used method.***

- *We want to meet public expectations and keep parks and neighbourhoods tidy.*
- *We are required by law to control certain weeds e.g. Japanese Knotweed.*
- *There are a number of approaches to managing weeds.*
- *Herbicides are still recognised as important and effective products for weed control.*

***We can reduce the amount of herbicide we use while still controlling weeds. This will:***

- *Be beneficial to the environment by encouraging biodiversity.*
- *Reduce carbon emissions.*
- *Reduce the amount of chemical purchased and handled by staff.*
- *Reduce staff exposure to chemicals.*



Growing Kirkcaldy has its own team of litter pickers – our Wombles – who regularly clean areas in the Town Centre.

There are several groups in the town who carry out regular litter picks and beach cleans.

GK is also taking steps to protect our environment by:

- reducing the use of compost which contains peat
- using our polytunnel to recycle by overwintering plants such as geraniums, dahlias and begonias rescued from the hanging baskets displayed around the town in the summer
- growing plants from seed – knipofia, pampas grass, geums, sweet william, heuchera etc
- no pesticides are used
- recycling pots by returning them to the growers as well as reusing them ourselves
- recycling and splitting plants, sharing them with other plot holders at the allotments

We continue to maintain our own allotment and raised bed using seeds, cuttings and donated plants, the aim being to provide shrubs and plants for our own use and for other community groups - to provide sustainable plants across the town.

Fife Council is also working to improve the environment with measures such as :

- providing seagull – proof bins in the town centre and Waterfront
- recycling plastics – film, bags, wrappers, ready meal trays, film, bubble wrap
- reducing use of chemicals

[www.fife.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0032/193379/Resources-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf](http://www.fife.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0032/193379/Resources-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf)

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



### Our Esplanade

Kirkcaldy Esplanade is over a mile long contributing to the nick name of "the Langtoun". The picture here shows the Links Market which occurs annually in April. This is the longest Street Fair in Europe.

There is a studio on the Esplanade (Kings Theatre Lounge) which has live events including a pantomime.

<https://www.kingstheatrekirkcaldy.com>





Adam Smith, author of "The Wealth of Nations", was born in Kirkcaldy in 1723 and last year we celebrated the 300 years since his birth.



One event was to re-enact his christening in the Old Kirk and his "parents" and the "baby" were taken to the church in a coach.

Adam Smith Global Foundation has developed an information centre between the High Street and the Esplanade which is accessed via a close from the High Street.



This is floored with a timeline of Smith's life. The garden of his former home is being brought back in to use and GK helped to clear the space to allow a garden party to take place there as part of the celebration.

We are also working with the Foundation to make this a permanent community asset. Yoga classes have already started to use this space on a regular basis.

A sundial has been embedded at the harbour end of the Esplanade to commemorate the work of Kirkcaldy born Sir Sandford Fleming who, amongst many accomplishments, standardised time zones.



The sea wall which was originally constructed in the 1920's was reconstructed in 2013.

The road has been reduced from dual carriageway to create new flexible spaces. GK is working to enhance this area with pockets of planting, galvanised planters and other floral features such as beehives and a boat.



A horse was given to the town by the Showman's Guild and will be added to the south end of the Esplanade. As in Bavaria, this is a tribute to the Links Market.

Along the front of the harbour there are several rig gardens. The one at the Merchant's House is tended by a small group of volunteers and the space is used by the public in all weathers.



At the centre of the Esplanade is "Volunteer's Green". This is what remains of common good land which was gifted to the town by King Charles I when the town was given Royal Burgh Status in 1644. This has been completely re structured. Planting was cleared, new paths were laid, new seating added, walls knocked down and rebuilt and the whole area was replanted with trees and other planting with a new grass area laid down.

Growing Kirkcaldy took part in the consultation process for its refurbishment. It is hoped that this community space at the Centre of the Esplanade will be used for many different events as well as a quiet area.



Kirkcaldy is at the heart of Fife and to recognise this a heart has been placed at the east end of the promenade. At Christmas time someone dressed up a nearby post box to show Santa knew about the heart.



The town centre is seen by Kirkcaldy "folk" as the heart of the Langtoun. Growing Kirkcaldy has a large network of contacts in our town and aims to support other groups across the whole town. GK has supported schools in their aims to develop gardens and enhance their knowledge of growing.



Local Scouts have also worked with GK.



In the past we have provided all 12 Primary Schools with planters made from recycled wood. This summer Kirkcaldy North Primary School has asked for help in brightening its grounds as has Valley Primary and Gallatown Nursery.

Kirkcaldy High School has developed a Peace Garden (which was recognised in the 2021 "It's Your Neighbourhood Awards as "Thriving ") and all 4 Secondary schools have groups

working in their grounds or poly – tunnels.







## COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS

GK has a facebook page (Growing Kirkcaldy) and a twitter account (@ GrowingKdy).

The local newspaper -The Fife Free Press - covers the work of the group when appropriate

<https://www.fifetoday.co.uk>

GK works closely with many groups in the town and this network is slowly returning to pre - pandemic levels. These include:

- Beveridge Park Development Group
- Community Payback Team
- FIB Horticulture
- Fife Council Grounds Maintenance
- Fife Council Environmental Services
- Fife Community Interpreting Service
- Fife Cultural Trust
- Greener Kirkcaldy
- House of Hopcroft
- Kirkcaldy Civic Society
- Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust
- Kirkcaldy Galleries
- Kirkcaldy Rotary Club
- Kirkcaldy West Community Council
- Love Oor Langtoun
- Merchant's House Café
- Ravenscraig Walled Garden
- Olympia Arcade Group
- The Duchess
- The Kaleyad – Beveridge Park

## SUPPORT AND FUNDING

Growing Kirkcaldy has received support from many areas of our Community.

Residents have donated plants from their gardens and any extra plants from their greenhouse.

This year the team has logged 1593 man hours of work directly around the town centre and at our allotment. (appendix 2).

If this was costed at £10.42 per hour (minimum wage)

we have saved the Community £16,599.06

As mentioned before, We received a donation of £500 from Kirkcaldy Floral Art club which has been used to develop a bed in the memorial Gardens.

A further donation of £500 was used to develop perennial displays and Ravenscraig Flats Tenants and Residents Association disbanded and donated £300 towards planting in the Town.





In addition, we have been handed money by people who have been passing and admired our work.

We receive financial support from Fife Council and also from Kirkcaldy West Community Council.

All the members of our group made and sold wreaths last Christmas. These were made from plants from our own gardens and the town parks.



The sales were over £1,000. (appendix 6)

'In kind' contributions include:

- donations of wooden pallets & cable drums from Fife Group
- use of allotment, poly tunnel and meeting room from Ravensraig Walled Garden
- garden materials from Police Scotland
- recycled compost and plants from the local authority
- shrubs from local residents
- wooden barrels from Diageo for conversion into planters
- support from local printing firms Multiprint and Sandy's Signs
- free use of office from Fife Interpretation Service
- donation of unsold potted Christmas trees left over from December sales.

We receive regular support from Fife Council Environmental team who collect and dispose of the debris from our weeding and pruning that cannot be composted.

## FUTURE PLANS

Growing Kirkcaldy is still growing and continues to support schools, groups and residents in the town as required.

This will continue, with our main aims being to:

- replace the need for annual planting and maintenance by replacing with sustainable planting where possible
- enhance "stalled spaces" in our town
- continue to be a major partner in the development of the waterfront of our town
- work closely with Love Oor Lang Toun
- increase work with schools and groups of young people with the aim of making our work sustainable
- continue to encourage business participation
- work with the Council on improving the town as a tourist destination
- continue to publicise our work and encourage more volunteers
- take a role in the celebrations in the town.



## Growing Kirkcaldy Team

### Committee Members;

Alice Soper    Chair  
Judith Kerr    Secretary  
Harry Kerr    Treasurer

Andrew Brown  
Phil Boyling  
Chris Flint  
Keiko Gardner  
Sandy Gardner  
Barbara McAndie  
Robin McAndie  
Avril Moodie  
Mary Patrick  
Les Soper  
Rosemary Torrance  
Jean Wells

Other regular volunteers: [Lynda Abrahams](#), [Marie Gallagher](#) & [Liz Venters](#).

We work closely with many groups around the town and a full list of contacts is [\(appendix 7\)](#).

Over this past year the main Fife Council links have been with:

#### [Richard Brown](#)

Team manager, Kirkcaldy & Glenrothes, Grounds Maintenance Service

#### [Fraser Nicol](#)

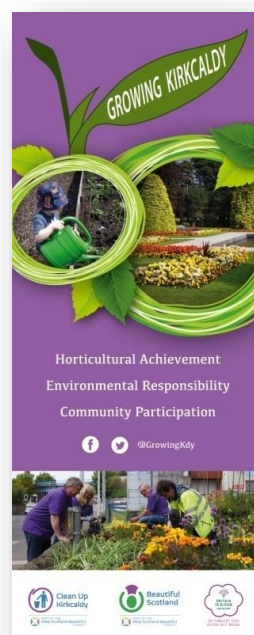
Area Officer, Grounds Maintenance Service, Central/Kirkcaldy

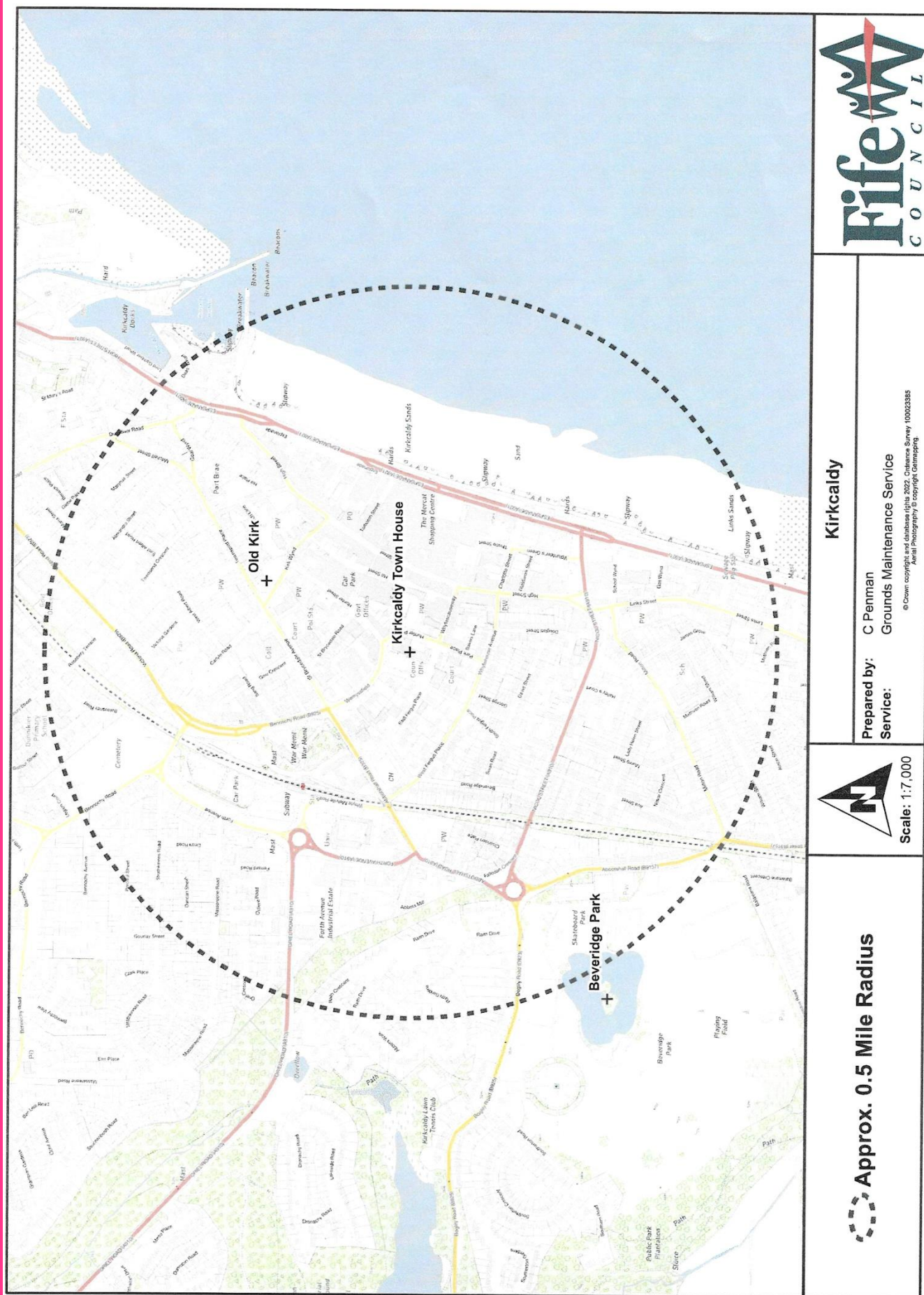
#### [Andrew Walker](#)

Project Manager (Place & Tourism), Kirkcaldy

#### [Lee Cairns](#)

Area Officer, Street Cleansing, Enterprise & Environment Assets, Transportation & Building Services  
Waste Operations







Volunteer hours logged include:

- regular Monday morning working sessions for the whole group
- maintenance work done at other times around the town and at Ravenscraig Walled Garden
- visits to other groups for help and advice
- preparation and selling of wreaths
- admin time for the office bearers
- regular summer tasks such as watering and feeding

Growing Kirkcaldy Volunteer Hours  
31 July 2023- 1 July 2024

2023

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| August    | 80  |
| September | 119 |
| October   | 138 |
| November  | 73  |
| December  | 113 |

2024

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| January  | 74  |
| February | 116 |
| March    | 113 |
| April    | 147 |
| May      | 82  |
| June     | 249 |

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Extra Hours | 289 |
|-------------|-----|

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| total | 1593 |
|-------|------|

Value to the Community at £10.42 per hour = £16,599.06

### GK BASKETS/BEEHIVES

V1

18 Feb '24

PRP =

FRP =

HB =

$$BH =$$

BHP =

$$\text{BHR} =$$

### LOCATION - Proposals

|  |                                       |     |     |    |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
|  | LAMPOST AT ARCADE ENTRANCE (Double)   | HB  |     |    |
|  |                                       | HB  | PRP | 0  |
|  | LAMPOST - ISLAND (Double)             | HB  | FRP | 0  |
|  |                                       | HB  |     |    |
|  | LADY INN WYND TO HIGH STREET (Double) | HB  |     |    |
|  |                                       | HB  | HB  | 6  |
|  | LADY INN WYND TO HIGH STREET          | HB  |     |    |
|  | LADY INN WYND TO HIGH STREET          | HB  |     |    |
|  | LADY INN WYND TO HIGH STREET          | HB  |     |    |
|  | LADY INN WYND TO HIGH STREET          | HB  |     |    |
|  | TOWN HOUSE                            | PRP |     |    |
|  | CAR WASH                              | PRP | PRP | 24 |
|  | WEMYSSFIELD                           | PRP | FRP | 0  |
|  |                                       |     | HB  | 0  |
|  |                                       |     |     |    |
|  |                                       |     |     |    |

|  |                             |    |     |   |
|--|-----------------------------|----|-----|---|
|  | PORT BRAE 1 / BOAT (Double) | HB |     |   |
|  |                             | HB | PRP | 0 |
|  |                             | HB | FRP | 0 |
|  | PORT BRAE 2 / (Double)      | HB | HB  | 4 |

### LOCATION - BEEHIVES (Annuals)

|                     |                                    |    |    |    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----|----|----|
|                     | WEST END - PAVEMENT OUTSIDE ARCADE | BH |    |    |
|                     | PORT BRAE ISLAND                   | BH | BH | 3  |
|                     | PORT BRAE ISLAND                   | BH |    |    |
| TOWN SQUARE BASKETS |                                    | HB | HB | 40 |





## Growing Kirkcaldy Review start of 2023

|                           | Notes  | Action   |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Bennochty                 |  | Tidy   |
| Station Baskets           |  | Tidy   |
| Stumpery                  | Bulbs starting to come through                           | Tidy. Remove leaves from path and some from beds.                      |
| War Memorial beds         | Beds at the steps need soil.<br>Need to add conditioner. | Tidy   |
| Memorial Gardens          | Need to add conditioners                                 | Tidy   |
| Whyte Melville Rd Planter |  | Reposition   |
| Town Square beds x 6      |  | Add soil to RH bed at steps  |
| Flag Pole Beds            |  | Check with Council what their plans are for this area                  |
| Town House Beehive        |  | Remove dead plants<br>Tidy   |
| Town House Baskets        |  | Tidy   |
| Bus Station               | Needs cut back as well as clean out                      | Contact Postings developer<br>Ask Council for help to clean            |
| Duchess island            | Conifer stolen   | Replace conifer<br>Tidy  |
| Charlotte Street          |  | Add soil and conditioner before planting.                              |
| Pumping Station -Prom     |  | Clean  |
| Pumping Station Beds      |  | Clean  |
| Fish Area                 |  | Increase the planting area   |
| Basin Planters            |  | Clear the random planting and add plants to survive the wind eg cornus |
| Black Planters            |  | Ask FC to tidy positioning   |
| Boat                      |  | Fill gaps otherwise ok   |
| Heuchera Beehives         |  | Remove dead plants and replace with other colours                      |
| Galvanised planters       |  | Give grasses a haircut   |
| Allotment                 |  | Tidy   |



Love Oor Lang Toun (LOLT) is a community-based organisation that was formed in 2020 following the demise of the BID company, Kirkcaldy4All. The town centre had just experienced the shock of some of the national retailers, including Tesco, BHS, Marks & Spencers, Debenhams, and Burtons, closing their outlets with the resulting impact of reducing high street footfall.

Initially a group of volunteers, our challenge was to develop a new model for business support, community engagement, positive place promotion and income generation.

Our first action was to respond to lockdown by helping local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to start trading online through the ShopAppy digital platform. After lockdown we worked with local company Midgie Bite media to create several promotional videos with the theme 'Kirkcaldy is Open', showcasing businesses and encouraging people to visit the town centre. These generated a total combined reach of 9,025 from 11 Facebook posts.

We then partnered with Greener Kirkcaldy to run an online community conversation event - *Kirkcaldy After Lockdown* - attended by 60 people. Inspiring guest speakers and a facilitated discussion helped draw out what people love about Kirkcaldy, and a follow-up survey gathered input from a further 150 people about their aspirations for the future of the town.

To celebrate our first anniversary in March 2021, we ran another consultation event entitled *The Future Is Now*, with guest speaker Professor Leigh Sparks, Chair of Scotland's Towns Partnerships and Professor of Retail Studies at the University of Stirling. This session focussed on the town centre, particularly empty units and vacant sites. However, feedback from our community was overwhelmingly positive about how we could revive our Town Centre, and we used it to inform our future plans.

LOLT became a Community Interest Company and we gained funding from Fife Council and Crown Estates Scotland that enabled us to employ two part-time staff and commission architectural firm ARPL to help us undertake a feasibility study. This study focused on how we could repurpose empty buildings and sites, which we preferred to call 'opportunity sites'. Following an initial survey by the architects, we undertook a substantial consultation with process with local people and local businesses.

We continued our support to local businesses by promoting the Kirkcaldy Gift Card and Mii rewards. We launched Kirkcaldy's first Christmas Market in partnership with Artisan Fridays, the high street market that has become a key element of our town centre renewal. We also promoted a Christmas Festive Fiver campaign with 20 local high street businesses.

In April 2022, we were asked to present evidence to the Economy and Fair Work Committee of the Scottish Parliament to their inquiry into town centres and retail.

The following month, in partnership with Fife Council, we launched the *Spend a Day In Kirkcaldy* video that highlighted the Merchant's Quarter, Leisure Centre, Adam Smith Close, Kirkcaldy Galleries, and the evening economy.

[Spend a Day in Kirkcaldy \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



**GROWING KIRKCALDY RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS 01/06/23 - 24 /05/24**

(DRAFT 24 June'24)

|  | 2023/24            | 2022/23            |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | Unrestricted Funds | Unrestricted Funds |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                            |                    |                    |
| Kdy West CC                                | £1,198.00          | £1,071.00          |
| Sales                                      | £1,056.00          | £1,229.00          |
| Ward/Area Budget                           | £12,000.00         | £4,000.00          |
| Floral Grant                               |                    |                    |
| LCP Budget                                 | £0.00              |                    |
| Donations                                  | £426.02            |                    |
| Other                                      | £314.73            |                    |
| Bank Interest                              | £0.00              |                    |
| Travel/Sub                                 |                    |                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>                        | <b>£14,994.75</b>  | <b>£6,300.00</b>   |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                            |                    |                    |
| Growing Consumables                        | £6,808.18          | £5,821.06          |
| Growing Hardware                           | £57.96             | £85.99             |
| Sales - Expenses                           | £324.43            | £430.58            |
| Hospitality                                | £444.57            | £496.41            |
| Travel/Sub                                 | £0.00              | £50.00             |
| Insurances                                 | £80.00             | £75.00             |
| Other                                      | £414.73            | £161.65            |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                   | <b>£8,129.87</b>   | <b>£7,120.69</b>   |
| <b>Revenue Surplus/ (-) Deficit</b>        | <b>£6,864.88</b>   | <b>-£820.69</b>    |
| <b>Total Revenue Surplus / (-) Deficit</b> | <b>£6,864.88</b>   |                    |
| <b>BALANCE at 24th May 2024</b>            |                    |                    |
| Revenue balances Brought Forward           | £3,779.26          | £4,550.15          |
| TOTAL Surplus/Deficit for year             | £6,864.88          | -£770.89           |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                         | <b>£10,644.14</b>  | <b>£3,779.26</b>   |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                      |                    |                    |
| RBS Current Acct                           | £10,644.14         | £3,779.26          |
| Less Debtors (unpresented cheque/s)        |                    |                    |
|  | <b>£10,644.14</b>  | <b>£3,779.26</b>   |

## APPENDIX 7 – CONTACT LIST

| Name        |           | Organisation      |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Lynda       | Abrahams  |                   |
| Andrew      | Brown     | Committee         |
| Phil        | Boyling   | Committee         |
| Christopher | Flint     | Committee         |
| Sandy       | Gardner   | Committee         |
| Keiko       | Gardner   | Committee         |
| Marie       | Gallagher |                   |
| Harry       | Kerr      | Treasurer         |
| Judith      | Kerr      | Secretary         |
| Barbara     | McAndie   | Committee         |
| Robin       | McAndie   | Committee         |
| Avril       | Moodie    | Committee         |
| Mary        | Patrick   | Committee         |
| Alice       | Soper     | Chair             |
| Les         | Soper     | Committee         |
| Rosemary    | Torrance  | Committee         |
| Liz         | Venters   |                   |
| Jean        | Wells     | Committee         |
| Vicki       | Bell      | Fair Isle         |
| Pauline     | Bradshaw  | Sinclairtown      |
| Caroline    | Bruce     | Torbain/ Capshard |
| Patrick     | Callaghan | St Andrew's High  |
| Emma        | Clunie    | Kirkcaldy North   |
| Victoria    | Hood      | Dunnikier         |
| Chris       | McKay     | Kirkcaldy High    |
| Jillian     | Mellis    | Pathhead          |
| Alison      | Mitchell  | Balwearie         |
| Lisa        | Moore     | Viewforth         |
| Drew        | Murray    | Strathallan       |
| Megan       | Neville   | Gallatown Nursery |
| Heidi       | Reid      | Valley            |

| Name      |           | Organisation                |
|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Alison    | Robertson | St Marie's                  |
| Jaqueline | Thompson  | Dysart                      |
| Elizabeth | Thomson   | Kirkcaldy West              |
| Jackie    | Urquhart  | Rosslyn                     |
| Derek     |           | X Cabs Taxi                 |
| Robbie    | Blyth     | Fife Countryside Trust      |
| Hamish    | Brown     | Snowdrop Man                |
| Rab       | Clark     | Dallas Drive                |
| Paul      | Coleman   | Safer Communities Team      |
| Jim       | Cooper    | Fife Interpretation Service |
| Tina      | Gordon    | Kaleyard                    |
| Craig     | Hutton    | Community Payback Team      |
| Raymond   | Mann      | Beveridge Park Dev Group    |
| Zander    | Meldrum   | East March Street           |
| Archie    | Melville  | Fife Council                |
| Anne      | Mowatt    | Community Payback Team      |
| Rosemary  | Potter    | Hayfield & Old Kirk         |
| George    | Proudfoot | Civic Society               |
| Geoffrey  | Proudfoot | Fife College                |
| Dave      | Ross      | SAMH                        |
| Mark      | Rossiter  | Kirkcaldy Rotary            |
| Helen     | Stevenson | ON fife                     |
| Sarah.    | Warnock   | ABE                         |
| Lorraine  | Wilkinson | Rabbit Braes                |
| Alison    | Wood      | Local Planner               |
| Kirsty    | Woodhouse | Cottage Centre              |