



Keep Scotland  
Beautiful

# Cumbernauld's Bloomin' Wild

BEAUTIFUL SCOTLAND 2024 PORTFOLIO



## Cumbernauld's

— BLOOMIN' WILD —



# Cumbernauld's Bloomin' Wild



This submission is a collaborative effort created by multiple organisations that are actively engaged in preserving the interconnected network of green spaces scattered across Cumbernauld.

This portfolio aims to showcase the diverse range of activities taking place throughout Cumbernauld, emphasising that the town transcends its urban landscape to encompass vibrant greenspaces.



# GROUPS INVOLVED



# CUMBERNAULD VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Cumbernauld Village Community Council coordinates activity within the Village with the aim to improve greenspaces, make the Village a food rich environment and to increase biodiversity.**



## **Village Veggies maintains a range of planters throughout the village, including:**

- 2 large raised beds in front of the allotments, made from recycled wood. This year one of the beds is being used to demonstrate square foot gardening and the other has a range of root vegetables
- 3 large raised beds in Jubilee park where potatoes, onions and comfrey is grown. The group will be using the comfrey to make natural fertiliser
- 10 half barrels with a range of fruit and vegetables
- Fruit corner, funded by the local Co-op Funeral Care, where there are a range of orchard trees, fruit bushes and companion planting
- 10 herb boxes attached to the railings on the Main Street with herbs and salad leaves, this year small plants have also been potted up, using recycled glass dessert jars, for people to take home and grow themselves.





The produce is available for people to help themselves and is advertised through the Village Veggies and Community Council Facebook pages, the intimations at the local church, and on signage around the planters and the Family Learning Centre.

Everything is grown from seed in the communal polytunnel and two of the volunteers have attended a seed saving course and successfully saved seeds from tomatoes, peas and beans. These were saved following principles of rogueing and selection to ensure the seeds are of the highest quality and adapted to the local growing conditions. One of the volunteers has also attended and passed the Community Orchard training course through the Orchard Project and has shared this knowledge with other volunteers, created a plan of the orchard trees in the Village and carried out pruning. This year, the trees are already showing good signs of fruiting!





# PROGRESS OF OUR PROJECT

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Volunteers are working with the Family Learning Centre on a recently acquired allotment plot that they share with the community council. The children are learning how to grow their own and not only eat what they grow at the centre they also take some home to share with their families. They have also installed wheelchair friendly raised beds at the local care home.

The focus is on sustainability, perennial planting and reducing workload. The large raisedbeds in Jubilee Park are high maintenance with invasive weeds such as bind weed, ground elder and mares tail.

This year, after the potato and onion harvest, the plan is to cover the beds in a thick layer of cardboard and mulch to suppress the weeds and then plant with fruit bushes and ground covering strawberries. The fruit bushes have been propagated from cuttings from berry bushes around the area.

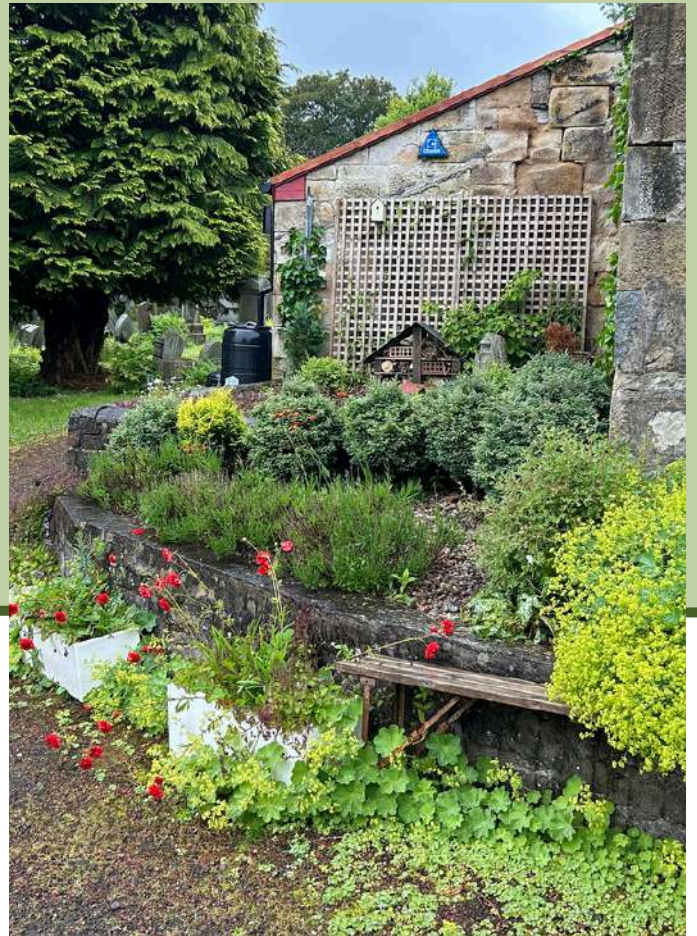
Village Veggies are looking to buy Babington perennial leek bulbils, perennial wall rocket and walking onions. Unfortunately, they have been out of stock for some time, but they will keep checking for next year!





# THE GARDENING GROUP

**The Gardening Group work all over the Village but have concentrated on the cemetery at Cumbernauld Old Parish Church and the Langriggs.**



The Langriggs date back to medieval times and are illustrative of once-typical early Scottish villages, when each property on the Main Street had their own long narrow plots of land or riggs. They are now owned by North Lanarkshire Council, but individual ownerships can be traced back prior to 1669. South of the Main Street the 17 Langriggs remain as public greenspace. They are now protected as a Field in Trust, meaning they cannot be built upon.

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The gardening group have been restoring old hedgerows that used to form part of the boundaries of the individual gardens. They've used an edible hedgerow mix from The Woodland Trust and have supplemented this with hawthorn and blackthorn from Alba Trees. 315 more trees will be arriving in November to fill in gaps in the hedges. They will also be bringing some on in the allotments to plant out as more mature trees to replace tree losses through ash dieback and storm damage.

They use local suppliers for all trees and plants, where possible. The gardening group have been working alongside the local allotments to lay hawthorn hedges - although many of the trees were so old that the trunks split, but these have started to regenerate.

They have been clearing large areas of invasive species and have used the clippings to create dead hedges - at least 60m of them throughout the Langriggs and around the allotments and Family Learning Centre boundary fences. Several trees were brought down by the recent storms, the local authority agreed to chip and chop these on site and the wood chip was used to improve paths throughout the allotments and as mulch for raised beds. The larger branches have been used to create a large hugobunkur bed which will hopefully be ready for planting next year.

The allotments have been extended with 10 new plots being created. The Community Council and the Family Learning Centre are sharing two plots. This will be used as a nursery plot to supply the gardening group with fruit bushes, flowers and other plants for using around the Village. Solar panels have been installed in the cabin this will allow for it to be lit and used for its original purpose as a social space and teaching room.

Sustainability is at the heart of what they do, and in the cemetery, they have worked with the local authority to agree a 4-weekly mowing regime (as opposed to 2-weekly) which has resulted in wildflowers starting to grow. Invasive species, such as laurel and rhododendron have been cut back to more manageable sizes and perennial native species have been planted





Volunteers have created log piles, hanging bug worlds and a bug hotel in the cemetery to offer habitats to insects and small mammals. They plan to monitor these using iRecord and encourage visitors to do the same through social media and a notice on the Village notice board.

New beds have been created around the entrance on what was empty red blaes paths. This used plants that were propagated from cuttings and from splitting other plants from around the area. The planting medium was improved using compost made on site. A local resident built and donated a bench that they had made and it sits pride of place in amongst these newly planted areas. Recycled planters have been installed, these came from the closure of the HMRC offices and from the withdrawal of planters by the local authority.

The old ex-mort building in the cemetery was due to be demolished, the gardening group stepped in raising funds to replace the roof and secure the building. Provisions have been purchased to clean up the space, paint and add shelving to use as storage.





Elsewhere, they are also working alongside NLC to bring a vacant and derelict site of red blaes back into use with the aim of improving biodiversity and local amenity. A community consultation was carried out and plans have been drawn up to create a brand new public garden that will include a wide range of habitats, pollinator planting and thoughtful spaces where people can enjoy the garden, learn to ride bikes and walk their dogs.

Throughout the Village hanging baskets have been replaced after the local authority withdrew this service and have been planted with drought tolerant perennials, mainly grasses and sedums. Various beds are being improved by reducing monocultures and adding perennials and fruit bushes this includes the Peace Garden, built in the foundations of the old bakery and around the Community Hall.

At the War Memorial, new barrel planters have been installed and volunteers from the local garage have been maintaining the cobbled areas and tidying up the beds. Again, planting is being improved using cuttings and splitting plants from around the Village.

Both projects are part of the It's Your Neighbourhood programme administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful and both achieved a 'Thriving' score.







# CASTLECARY

## Castlecary Memorial Garden

The garden was designed, funded and built by the residents and friends of the people in Castlecary. The garden was opened in 1999 and has matured nicely over the years. Within the garden there are two memorials which are dedicated to the two train disasters which happened on the Castlecary to Glasgow/Edinburgh line.





There is also part of The World Phoenix project which is dedicated to world peace and this garden was chosen by North Lanarkshire Council as one of the garden locations for this honour.

The garden today is maintained by the gardeners of the local authority as well as residents of Castlecary who carry out two major tidy ups per year as well as periodic improvements.









# CRAIGIEBURN COMMUNITY GARDEN

The purpose of Craigieburn Community Garden is to make a green space close to Cumbernauld town centre which is a "pleasant place for all". We have two parts to the garden, one is a mini urban woodland which is going to be used for environmental education by local primary schools and groups. The second is the main 'garden' which focuses on permaculture, biodiversity and sustainability.



There is a small vegetable patch made from recycled pallet collars, and over 50% of the plants in the garden were either donated or split from resident's own gardens. We also work with Tesco Extra Cumbernauld to save their plants which are due to be put in the skip, these are mainly our bedding annuals. To the best of our knowledge all plants bought, donated or grown are in peat-free soils, and we also are experimenting with creating our own compost.

Since the last visit we have been focussing on maintaining the three perennial beds (1,2 and 4), as well as working more on the 'mixed hedgerow' which runs the top length of the garden. Our residents find potted shrubs abandoned in streets as part of fly-tipping, and if they're suitable we add them to the hedge. We currently have pyracanthus, gooseberry, mock orange and spirea which have extended the berberis and beech hedge into almost 150m.





We have also added a 'display' bed featuring traditional cottage garden plants such as hollyhocks, artisan geraniums, potentilla and astilbe. We will be using this bed for seed collection and flower cutting in year 2 (2024-25). This has been placed at the side of the garden with most foot traffic and is designed to be eye-catching and get people to notice the green space, and encourage them to spend time there.

The mini woodland area features mature fruit trees, and we have started labelling them, with the permission of the council. The council have also been helpful in taming the tree canopy, and carrying out maintenance on the fence. They allowed us to keep the wood chips which we are using in the shady peace garden section, which is a work in progress



We were donated a large amount of sessile oak saplings last year, Kate grew these on in her garden and now some are being used to form a native hedgerow. The main challenges have been the ongoing education of community residents to explain that old ways of gardening e.g. regimented rows of annual exotic plants, are harming the soil. We have been fortunate that the council have our areas marked down as 'no spray' for glyphosate, and we have good communication with the workers who come to the garden on their contracted rounds.





Further challenges came from the lack of available spaces for rainwater collection. We have countered that by using storage tubs in two members gardens and trying to create planting schemes that require less water in the sunnier area. For example, the veg patch and mixed hedgerow get the most sunlight so we have had some mediteranean plants and herbs here, but the vegetables that need more water such as the potatoes have been grown at the bottom of the slope in the shade of the raised beds.

We are now on year 3 of the garden, despite the weather, the planting from 2022 is maturing well and we have lost very few plants. There is a variety throughout the year with primroses, aquilegia and forget-me-nots dominating the spring, while astilbe, roses and geum brightens up the beds for the summer. Skimmia create interest in the autumn, and our evergreen shrubs keep the garden looking 'alive' throughout the colder months.

A rambling native rose was installed in bed 4 two years ago and is now winding its way through the dogwood and rhododendron, this hedgerow is perfect for the small birds that live in the garden such as wren, great tit and bluetits. Our hedgehog has returned for a third year which is a good indication that our garden is supporting its food source of invertebrates.



The next 12 months will see improvements to the urban woodland area with the incorporation of a mini 'peace garden'. This is to engage people as they leave the town centre, especially as work on the town centre is due to start in the next few years, we want residents of Cumbernauld to realise that there is a green space on their doorstep and somewhere friendly and safe to visit if they need time to escape the construction site!







## CUMBERNAULD FLYING CLUB

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Cumbernauld Model Flying Club has played an important role in the town for over three decades. In 1999 it even featured in the film Gregory's Two Girls the long-awaited sequel to the cult film Gregory's Girl (which was also shot in the town). The club is located at the edge of Palacerigg Country Park and has an amazing view down the hill to the town where you can see the whole of Cumbernauld laid out before you, with an impressive backdrop of the Campsie Hills.







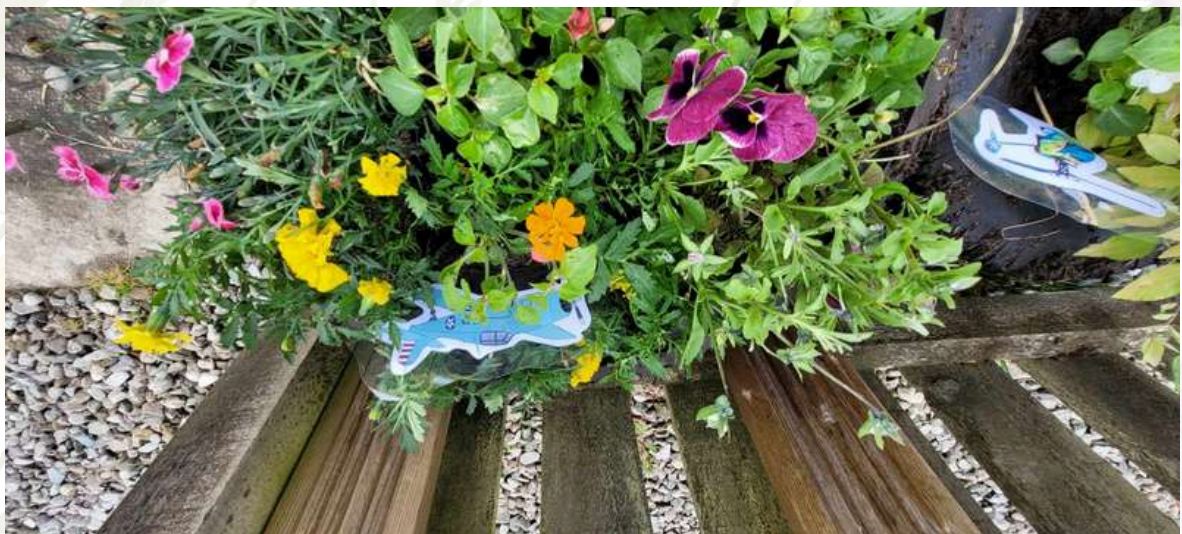
In 2024 we are pleased to have made our first connection with the club via Craigieburn Community Garden and Carbrain & Hillcrest Community Council. The club's ward doesn't currently have it's own CC in place, which means it can sometimes feel remote compared to the main urban area. By linking with existing environmental groups the club has benefitted from bespoke planters being installed - all recycled from locally fly-tipped materials!

There are tyres from the club's own lawnmower, tyres from Carbrain, recycled decking planters from Kildrum, and even some lovely ceramic pots that were dumped after a flit from Greenfaulds. The plants have been provided through Tesco Extra Cumbernauld's community scheme to prevent landfill waste, and some of the larger plants have been donated by local residents.

The aim is that the site will encourage more pollinators as currently it is comprised of gravel, hardstanding and a mown expanse of lawn.









# KYLE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

This growing space is part of the YMCA in Cumbernauld and is run by Pauline, an avid local gardener and environmentalist. She took over the space before lockdown after attending a meeting relating to maintenance and improvement of green spaces in Cumbernauld.



In April 2024 the community allotment featured in "Get growing Scotland" Polytunnel Tales blog, Pauline explains that "... between 4 and 8 of us meet regularly on a Sunday afternoon to plant and maintain the garden, support wildlife and catch up over a cup of tea which is also made possible as we can shelter under the plastic on rainy days."

The growing season over the past 12 months or more has been impacted by the potential installation of a portacabin for the YMCA, which will take up a third of the area. Despite this, the volunteers managed to rearrange some of the existing raised beds, and create a couple more! Having to think more constructively about the reduced capacity to grow has meant creatively using the polytunnel.





In previous years the tunnel was used to grow tomatoes, beans and herbs on the ground bed, then cucumbers and peppers were in hanging planters and trailed around the support rods. This is still happening in 2024, but with the addition of a vertical planter for strawberries. these had to be moved inside due to the poor weather and the slugs which were decimating the early crop - despite companion planting!







We have rainwater collection via open barrels and storage containers dotted around the site, but again, this year we couldn't plan ahead due to change of space layout. We have used the existing blackberries and raspberries as a screen and started to weave them along the fence, this way the berries will be readily available even when the building is erected.

As well as growing fruit and vegetables, we also have several 'wild flower' areas of the garden, including a dedicated area on the back fence which uses recycled tyres, branches from felled trees, and reclaimed stone to create a bug hotel and bird bath. The garden is completely organic, and we have always created compost which has given us a healthy population of snails, slugs, beetles and beasties as well as nesting bees.

Recently we've had the opportunity to welcome some of the children who use the YMCA facilities into the allotment. They got to sample our strawberries and understand a bit more about how the growing space works. Our aim is to encourage parents and children to come along to our weekly sessions on a Sunday so that we can begin to demonstrate basic gardening skills that will turn into life skills for everyone.







As a group we have assisted other gardening projects in Cumbernauld such as Craigieburn Community Garden and Jacqueline's Garden. We are a huge proponent of splitting perennials, seed swaps and knowledge sharing. Soil quality and sustainability are at the heart of the community allotment, and with that in mind, we regularly liaise with North Lanarkshire Council when it comes to the areas adjoining the garden such as the cherry tree triangle by our gate.

Once the cabin is in place we will have a better idea for the 2024/25 growing capacity and we can look at increasing the days we are available for volunteers to attend.

The highlight of the last year has been linking in with local volunteers and expanding our experience. We use free apps such as iNaturalist to identify plants and animals, this has also helped us recognise trends; for example, in Kildrum this year there have been more black ants nests, but less bees and pollinators such as wasps and hover flies.







# **CARBRAIN & HILLCREST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS**

We have attended several litter picks over the last year, the two most notable group picks were in Glenhove Road area and also with MacDonald's restaurant as part of their giving back to the community initiative. Individuals on the CHCC have litter-picked their own streets on a regular basis and many residents are quick to report fly-tipping which is helping to keep the area looking nicer than it has done in previous years.





# ACTIVE PROJECTS

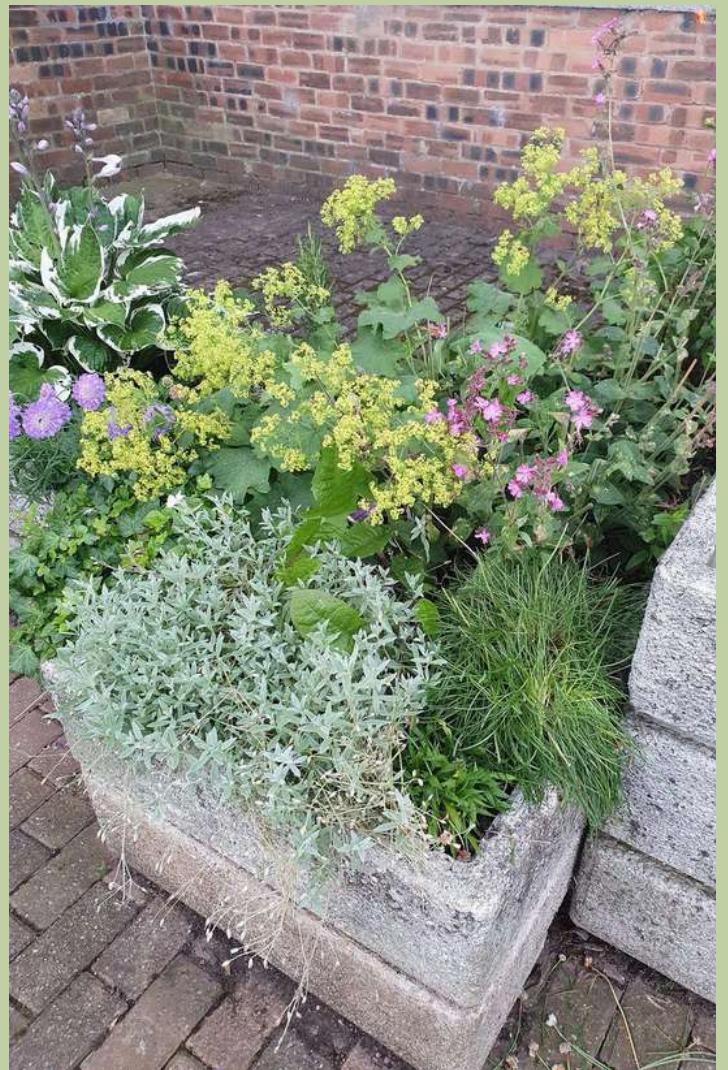
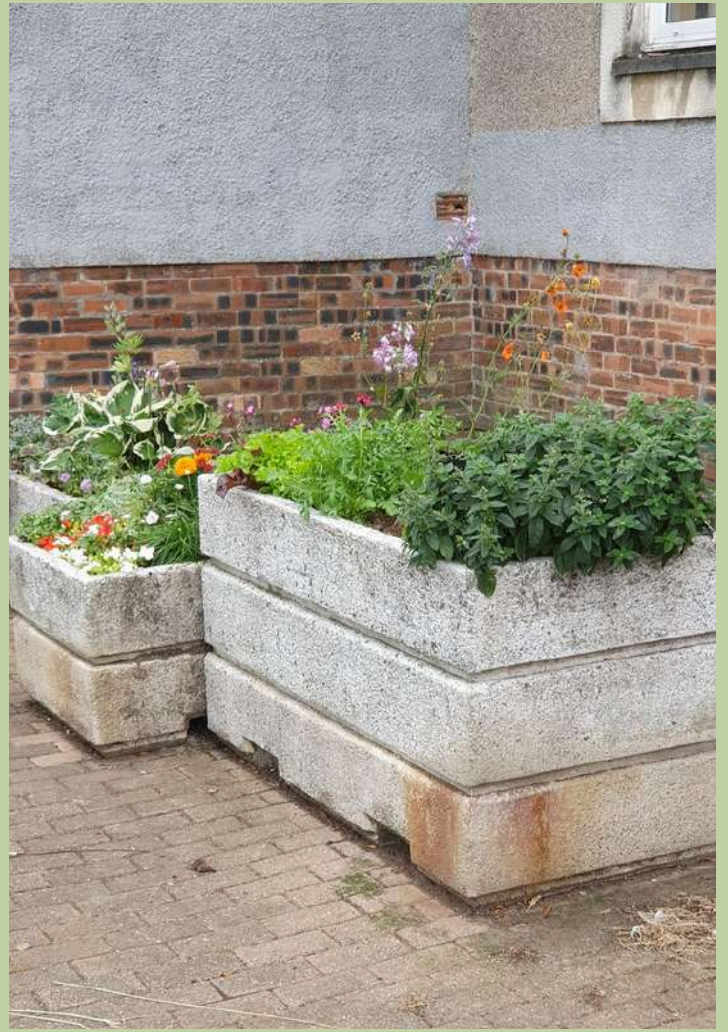
The current active projects are: Glenhove Concrete Planter and wildflower meadow, Carbrain Gully, Stonylee Signs and Greenrigg flats.

## Glenhove Planter

Glenhove Planter is one of just two remaining original concrete installations from the early days of Cumbernauld New Town. We use this to promote small-scale 'square foot' gardening. We can get a good crop of salad leaves, pak choi and raddish on a regular basis. Some of this is down to companion planting, but over the years we have fed the soil and we have established a good balance of flowering perennials to vegetables.









# Wildflower Meadow

The wild meadow section of Glenchove was an initiative put in place by the council, and we agreed to maintain it. This is the second year in which the native plants that were installed by them as part of the green route, have failed to thrive. To combat this we had a team of volunteers scarify the area, pull out the couch grass to give the small seedlings room to grow, and we have also secured yellow rattle seeds for this autumn.

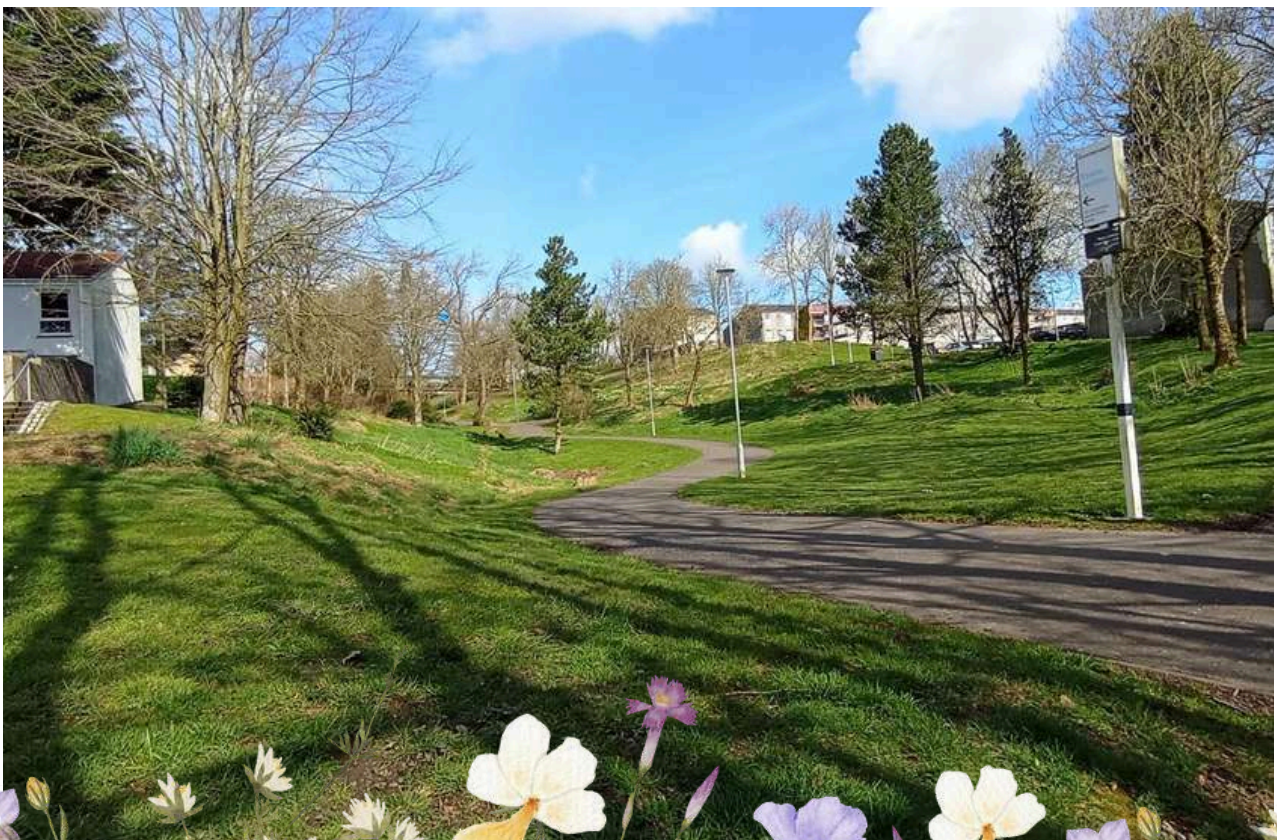




# Carbrain Gully

Carbrain Gully is a large area, and we previously had the assistance of Cumbernauld Living Landscape's Nature Ninja's. The good news is that this area was deliberately planned in a way to blend in with the natural surroundings. It is the old bed of a burn and the banks were overrun with ivy and brambles. In the last 12 months we have continued to monitor the brambles and cut back at every opportunity. We have also litter picked the area and monitored the wild flowers that were planted in the summer of 2023.

Our goals for the gully are to prevent overgrowth onto the paths, and the maintain the native bluebells that are growing at the base of some of the older trees. We are also planning to work with Cumbernauld Living landscape (when they are reinstated) to create a bog garden in the the floodplain at the bottom of the gully. We already planted yellow iris there which are thriving.





# Stonylee Road



Stonylee brick road signs were installed by the former residents association which was disbanded, unfortunately none of the residents wanted to take on the responsibility and so we have taken it over for the last few years. We receive annual bedding plants from Tesco Extra Cumbernauld, and there are a few perennial grasses and grape hyacinth in the beds. The main challenge is that the ground is full of tree roots and we cannot grow tall shrubs due to the signs being blocked. We have been experimenting with violas and primroses from spring colour, and we intend to recycle any plants that Tesco has on offer, so these flower beds are constantly changing with the season.



# Greenrigg Road Flats

Our long-term member John helps to run the resident's association for Greenrigg Road flats, and as such he also helps plant out the flower beds of his block. He also arranges litter picks and is quick to report vandalism. It has been a challenge the past year as half of the row (Millcroft end) have been under a compulsory purchase order to be demolished, this has encouraged more fly-tipping from people outwith Carbrain and a lack of care for the area. John is a great example of excelling in the face of adversity, and he is also a key member of the community council who is organising the gardening competition.



## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Our members regularly work with Kyle Community Allotment, Kildrum Community Council and Craigieburn Community Garden to share seeds and gardening knowledge - and most importantly people power! We feel that now, more than ever, there is cohesion between community groups and a string network of support for each area.

Other places we have helped as a one-off when it comes to gardening are; Broomlands Family learning centre who we have given landscaping bamboo poles to, an elderly immobile resident in Hillcrest who we are securing a large raised planter for, Cumbernauld Model Flying Club who we are designing and providing planters for in the coming months (from recycled wood), and St Margaret's Primary School who benefit from several of our member's drawing up planting plans and giving advice on types of plants to grow, how to eradicate mare's tail etc.



# FUTURE PROJECTS

## Community Gardening Competition

Our environmental projects are on-going, and we are also in the process of securing funding for a gardening competition. The competition aims focus on community engagement and taking responsibility for your immediate area, and we have factored in several categories so that a wide range of households can be included; even those without gardens.

### Carbrain Garden Competition 2024

#### Proposition

CHCC will set up and run a garden competition for 2024, that will inspire local community members to make positive changes to their local environment through horticultural, environmental and community action.

#### Benefit

- A stronger sense of pride of place
- A cleaner and greener place to live, with higher environmental awareness
- New partnerships between local authorities, businesses and community groups
- More funding opportunities to support specific activities
- Higher volunteer numbers, enabling groups to have a bigger impact



2

### Types of Competitions

1

#### Individual Garden

- Open to all individuals

2

#### Community Corner or Shared Space

- Craigieburn Garden
- GMFRA Garden area
- Churches x4
- Schools x3
- Train station, College, Town Hall etc
- Housing associations, NLC

3

#### Sustainability/Edibles

- Are you taking steps to be even greener in the garden?  
Are you growing your own fruit and veg?
- Or even incorporating recycled elements into your outdoor space?

4

#### Biodiversity

- Supporting biodiversity with wildflowers and wildlife (bug hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog houses)?

5

#### Young Champion Award

- Open to all young people, to be given as a standout entrant.

6

#### Floral Displays

- Open to all, no garden too big or small

7

#### Micro Garden

- No Garden too Small
- Do you make full use of the space you have on your patio, balcony or similar area, then enter this category!

8

#### Stand-out entrant

- Awards can be given for stand out element which can be across any gardening class or scenario.

- Competition class judging criteria to be confirmed
- Notable mentions for best lawn, hanging baskets, containers, themed garden etc



4



# AIRDRIEHEAD COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS



After several years of construction, the allotments were officially transferred to the community in early 2023. Encompassing an expanse of 250 square meters, all available plots have been assigned. Various organisations and community members, such as Cumbernauld Primary School, Cumbernauld Action and Care for the Elderly (CACE), and Spina Bifida, actively utilise the allotments. This year, efforts persist in maintaining the allotments and cultivating a diverse array of plants.

This year marks the first time the Polycrub has been planted up. In addition to conventional tomato and chilli plants, the cultivation includes sweet potatoes, sweetcorn, and various grape varieties.

The raised beds designated for St Andrews and Cumbernauld schools have been entirely planted this season. Primary classes and Nursery pupils have actively participated in the planting process, contributing to both floral displays and vegetable growth.









# BROOMLANDS FAMILY LEARNING CENTRE



At Broomlands Family Learning Centre we believe in community and want our families and neighbouring residents to feel like we are part of theirs. We are proudly nestled amongst the many gardening projects within our neighbourhood so were thrilled to receive funding from Tesco that has inspired and allowed our dedicated parents group along with our Barnados practitioner and Community Learning and Development Worker to work their magic on our outdoor environment.









They worked together to design and develop our front entrance into a blossoming backdrop of colour that would brighten anyone's day and invested many hours into the development of a growing and planting area within our nursery garden allowing our children to watch the journey from farm to fork and encouraging healthy eating and eco friendly ideals from an early stage. We are excited to see where this journey takes us this year.





# KILDRUM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As residents, we work together to improve the area we live in. This year has been one of collaborating with other local groups and community members to continue to improve our neighbourhood. Activities so far have included making colourful planters, continuous work on Jacqueline's Garden and clearing up areas around Kildrum.



**KILDRUM**  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL

We have recently worked alongside Carbrain and Hillcrest Community Council, Cumbernauld Village Community Council and local community members to brighten up the courtyard at the Afton Road shop. This has added a pop of colour to the area and highlights the benefit of communities coming together to improve local spaces!











Kildrum Community Council has continued to work on areas throughout Kildrum to “clean” them up! This has included doing regular litter picks, planting and weeding. Here you can see a ‘before’ and ‘after’ of a hard days work at the YMCA.





Work on Jacqueline's Garden has continued this year, with new plants and beds being added. The photos above show plants from the local charity Watch Us Grow that have been used for various growing projects at Jacqueline's Garden.







Since last year, work on Jaqueline's Garden has continued. You can see some of the work that has been carried out to improve the garden.



# CUMBERNAULD LIVING LANDSCAPES AND THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Cumbernauld Living Landscape is currently developing a new 5-year project, funded through National Lottery Heritage fund to improve and build ecological resiliency in the local greenspaces of the town. If successful the project will deliver activities that focus on volunteering, green health, employability, species recording, new technologies and delivering a suite of capital works in both blue and greenspaces to improve biodiversity, while mitigating against climate change, flooding and wildfire.



We are very excited to be building this new project which will benefit people and wildlife, while creating a resilient future for Cumbernauld.

Across the course of the Nurturing Natural Connections project with Cumbernauld Living Landscape, the Development Officer has been facilitating weekly sessions for participants (May to September 2024) to survey and tackle Invasive Non-native Species (INNS) and Garden

Escapees - plants that have escaped from gardens / previously maintained areas or have been tipped near greenspaces. The participants have been working hard every week to map the spread of these threats to our native flora and soils. INNS and Garden Escapees outcompete native plantlife, disturb soils and bring in disease to Cumbernauld's greenspaces. This plays a huge role in contributing to climate change.













# KSB CELEBRATION

Fifty individuals from 14 community groups in Lanarkshire and Falkirk gathered at a celebration and networking event on March 22 at the village community hall in Cumbernauld. The occasion highlighted our cleaning, greening, and growing initiatives, with guest speakers from various groups such as Tidy Clean and Green, Hope Community Garden, Polmont, Falkirk High School, and Ashton School sharing their accomplishments and experiences from the past year.

Monica Lennon MSP attended the event as a guest speaker, later joining our CEO Barry Fisher to present awards to those who excelled in activities like Our Heritage, Our Future, It's Your Neighbourhood, and Beautiful Scotland. Ms. Lennon commended the efforts of local volunteers and acknowledged the challenges of litter and fly tipping, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions.

Following the event, an optional walking tour of the It's Your Neighbourhood community groups in Cumbernauld Village took place, where participants experienced varying weather conditions, from clear skies to heavy rain and rainbows.





# Cumbernauld's

— BLOOMIN' WILD —

The activities described in this portfolio highlight the intertwined themes of horticulture, sustainability, and community engagement, illustrating a holistic approach to enhancing local environments and fostering community spirit.

## **Horticulture**

The numerous gardening projects, such as the restoration of hedgerows, planting of new trees, and maintenance of communal gardens like Jacqueline's Garden, demonstrate a commitment to horticultural excellence. The continued maintenance of allotments and the cultivation of diverse plants from seeds and cuttings showcase a dedication to improving local biodiversity and green spaces. This not only beautifies the area but also educates community members on the importance and techniques of gardening.

## **Sustainability**

Sustainability is a core focus throughout the initiatives. Practices such as using local suppliers, recycling materials (e.g., creating dead hedges from invasive species clippings), and implementing solar panels underscore an environmental consciousness. Efforts to manage invasive species, promote wildflower growth through adjusted mowing regimes, and utilize wood chips for path improvement and mulch further reinforce sustainable land management. Projects like the creation of a large hugelkultur bed exemplify innovative approaches to sustainable horticulture.





## **Community**

Community involvement is a cornerstone of the projects, fostering a strong sense of ownership and collaboration among residents. Activities such as litter picks, shared allotment plots, and the development of communal spaces with contributions from local organisations and schools highlight the collective effort to improve our local environment. Events and collaborative projects with multiple community councils and groups, as well as educational initiatives like teaching children about gardening, promote social cohesion and empower residents to contribute actively to their environment.

In summary, the projects described in this report effectively integrate horticultural practices, sustainability principles, and community engagement, creating a vibrant, eco-friendly, and cohesive community. These efforts not only enhance the aesthetic and ecological value of the area but also strengthen the bonds among community members, fostering a shared commitment to a sustainable future.