

# Transforming vacant land into a biodiverse, attractive and accessible space for all

Learning the art of food growing, improving the natural play resources for their neighbourhood and providing opportunities for social connection

[Kilmardinny Community Garden Project](#) in East Dunbartonshire, one of our new [Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network](#) groups in 2024, is a community led initiative which has achieved a lot, for people and for nature, in a very short space of time.

Jen from the group sent this inspiring update of their highlights from 2024, demonstrating the simple steps any group can take to create their own accessible climate and nature friendly community green space:



- We installed a log roll around our willow dome to protect it from the grass trimmers and added additional playbark inside
- Grew sweetpeas from seed
- Grew herbs, lettuce, sugar snap peas, broadbeans and baby corn which was then provided for free to the community (a small harvest but a learning curve for sure)
- Rescued a hedgerow to maintain wildlife corridors
- Organised and held a lot of litter picks
- Dug a pond

- Held our first summer social event with storyteller, outside garden games, bake off competition and neighbourhood potluck supper where our community all contributed food and they came together to enjoy a meal in the community garden
- We were able to purchase wheelchair accessible Picnic tables!! We're hoping these will be a community hub for board games, knitting groups and nursery picnics
- We were this year's winning project for the Dobbies community gardens competition, selected by the Milngavie branch
- We raised funds with a homegrown plant sale, installed two community planters which were clad for us by millboard, and planted an apple tree avenue!

Phew! A busy year indeed!



But 2025 is already promising to be even busier! Our aim is to increase our accessibility: pathways around our planters and paving under our picnic tables.

We're also planning on planting fruit bushes, introducing a sunflower competition, installing a gazebo for shelter for volunteers (our community garden also acts as a bus pick up/drop off point for our local school children) with guttering and waterbutt to harvest rainwater for our crops, a fantastic mini beasts of Kilmardinny forest school day where we'll be installing a bug hotel and sowing wildflowers and installing bird feeders, more litter picks, more mulching, more food growing, and lots of further social days 😊.

Wow, what an incredible list of achievements in one year, and fantastic to see the group is raring to go this year too - we look forward to hearing how all their plans develop 😊.

You can follow their progress on the [group's facebook page](#).

**To find out what our Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network groups get up to, be inspired by their activities, and register your own group for access to free support, resources and national recognition, visit our [dedicated web pages](#) now!**