

Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City work together

This year has seen Community Service in Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City working together on a number of joint projects. One such project followed on from environmental campaigners securing agreement from Aberdeenshire Council to create a green haven in Portlethen - an Aberdeen commuter town. The local Conservation Group secured significant funding from a well known oil company to take the project forward.

As well as providing a new woodland area with trees, footpaths and a natural play area for children the scheme will also link the north and south of the town with plans to reopen a footpath running alongside Portlethen church. The scheme has the backing of Kincardine and Mearns area manager Willie Munro.

As quoted in the local press (Press and Journal) "Community Service from both Aberdeenshire and City have committed to helping with the project, clearing gorse, picking up litter and maintaining footpaths.

Team Manager Fiona Westland says, "Over the last few months Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City have joined forces and are committed to working together especially in large environmental tasks. Aberdeenshire are also in negotiation with the Forestry Commission to help maintain woodlands, which are good projects providing on-going work which is of benefit to the local community.



Facing up to the challenge - Portlethen Moss project

"Following a successful presentation at the Community Safety Seminar we have been offered a stall at the Banchory Farmers market to help promote ourselves. We intend to take up this offer and, once we have visual aids and things to sell, you will see us the market.

We are also involved with the Willows Animal Sanctuary in Aberdeenshire and there was much digging out of ditches to improve drainage following heavy rain. Everyone got wet and muddy (including the task supervisor) but the feedback from the guys was very positive".

Fiona Westland—Team Manager

Primary School Wildlife Garden created in Aberdeen

Aberdeen City Community Service, through their involvement with Aberdeen City Ranger Service on other environmental projects, were contacted by Ashley Road Primary School who wanted to create a wildlife garden which could be used as an 'outdoor classroom'. Community Service clients created seating areas and raised beds ready for use by pupils and staff. From Community Service Team Leader Martin Thain "It was an exciting opportunity to start off a project which will get better and better as the children work on it."

He added, "Many of our clients are particularly enthusiastic about becoming involved in projects which benefit children and young people. Some acknowledge that the difficulties which led to their involvement with the criminal justice system began in childhood and although they cannot change the past, they are now able to do something which may help future generations avoid the same mistakes."



Ashley Road Primary School Wildlife Garden