

## PARK/PLAY CASE STUDY

Name of park/play area:	Powrie Park and Williamson Hall Play Area
Location:	Abernethy
Group(s) involved:	Abernethy Environmental Association (AEA)
Date of opening:	Summer 2013 and spring 2014
Timescale:	Consultation through to completion – 3 years

### Initial goals/expectations

PKC had a limited budget to improve the play areas at Powrie Park and Williamson Hall. Through consultation events it was found that the local community had a strong desire to improve their two public parks so it was decided that PKC and AEA would form a partnership to raise money for the parks.

As there was the potential to raise funds the community was keen to look at improvements to both the play area and the wider park the wider park at Powrie Park. Therefore, the expectations were significantly increased from the initial PKC proposals.

Expectations were:

- Improve two play areas including additional equipment
- Improve Powrie Park: upgrade footpaths, community garden, trim trail, benches, signage, car park, tree planting, bike track, sensory footpath feature and improve park access.

### Main obstacles faced

The main obstacles initially were raising funds and learning to work with another organisation (both for AEA and PKC).

- New members had joined AEA and initially there was limited experience in applying for large amounts of funding. This was overcome through hard work by AEA, attending external funding workshops and help from the community capacity worker. Overall, the group rose to the challenge and exceeded expectation by involving the whole community into raising the awareness for the park improvements. By pulling the whole community together AEA were able to tap into gifts from the local residents and businesses raising over 15k locally. In addition AEA raised over 100k from external funding sources.
- Through closely working together the two organisations learned to understand each other's requirements. Initially, AEA and PKC held regular monthly meetings to develop plans and cost estimates. As the designs progressed and finalised formal meetings reduced in frequency but regular contact via email and telephone were maintained for the duration of the project.

### Estimated costs

Costs for the all the works are:

- Williamson Hall: 40k
- Powrie Park Phase 1 (Play Area): 40k
- Powrie Park Phase 2 (General park improvements) : 60k
- Powrie Park Phase 3 (improvements to access road): 10k
- Powrie Park community maintenance contribution : 7.3k
- Fees for securing SITA funding (paid by community): 6.6k

### Amount of external funding raised

#### Fund raising methods

- Branston (local business)
- Work in Kind
- Tesco Charity Trust
- Lottery: Communities and Families
- Awards for All
- Quality of Life
- Community Contribution
- Sita Trust
- Community Challenge Fund

#### Added value achieved

- Vast community involvement from all sections of the community – school, community groups (e.g Cubs, Scouts, Guides etc.), Youth Groups, community council, individuals and local businesses.
- Community lead (minimum involvement by PKC): tree planting, sowing wildflower seed, construction of bike track and construction of outdoor classroom.
- Extra equipment: cableway and trim trail
- Footpath improvements
- Additional seating,
- Car park
- Improvement to access track
- Liaising with neighbours and wider community
- Organise community events in the park such as Picnic in the Park.
- Backing from the full community

#### Next steps

AEA have achievements through this project is huge. At the moment they do not plan to carry out any further projects.

Before photos:



Williamson Hall



Powrie Park

After photos:



Williamson Hall



Powrie Park



Powrie Park: Park Opening event