

## PARK/PLAY CASE STUDY

Name of park/play area: (e.g. Powrie Park)	Methven King George V Recreation Ground
Location: (e.g. Abernethy)	Methven
Group(s) involved: (e.g. Abernethy Environmental Association)	Methven Play Fields Association Methven Trust
Date of opening:	6 <sup>th</sup> of June 2015
Timescale:	Initial contact June 2012 – possible completion summer 2016

### Initial goals/expectations (e.g. play area equipment upgrades)

Methven Playing Field Committee has requested capital funding for one year to upgrade the King George V Jubilee Playing Fields. Programme of works will include:

- extend the existing path network
- improve and resurface the car park
- resizing the playing pitches to maximise benefit of the greenspace
- environmental enhancements/increased diversity (fruit trees, decorative shrubs, etc) to attract wildlife
- extend/improve childrens play area including new equipment
- provide historical and environmental information boards throughout the park

This programme of works will improve the diversity of the park, will encourage a wider and better range of use of this valuable community greenspace by all members of the community and surrounding areas. In addition the continued use of the playing fields facilities will attract other visitors to the village throughout the year. These changes will further the project aims by enabling people to make better use of our local space. The improvements to our facilities will enable people to live a healthier and more active life.

The proposed programme of works will:

- reinvigorate our community greenspace
- seek to foster increased community spirit and involvement
- over time will enhance social interaction, community ownership and reduce isolation
- encourage people to take pride in their surroundings
- increase visitors to the village and offer tourists better amenities for families and individuals travelling along the A85 trunk road

All the local community groups including, scouts, cubs, beavers, nurseries, school and friendship groups will be able to use the facilities as a fun place, a hub and educational base. Our playing fields are the gateway to the village and adjacent to the main trunk road to western Highlands. It is a major asset to our community which we want to improve, not just for our community but also to encourage tourists to the village thereby improve our local economy, and aid local businesses. The long term aim is to have refreshment facilities and public toilets within the playing fields thereby providing much needed facilities for all.

This park is especially attractive to the elderly community members who will be able to enjoy the park because of the flat topography. Dog walkers, joggers, walkers, young and old will enjoy a relaxing walk around the park and be able to take in the scenery and educational points which we will have located on the walk. The park is the only facility available to our local school and nurseries for fun runs and school sports. The woodland area has a huge benefit for educational purposes to enable children to learn about local wildlife and horticulture. This project not only benefits our community but it benefits the travelling public and tourists.

#### Main obstacles faced (e.g. funding, getting support or permissions)

Group had been pro-active at the start, with consultation and fundraising. The group managed to pass stage one in the lottery bid.

However with the stepping down of the initial community driver and pressures within the committee on the way forward the project did not look likely to succeed.

However with PKC stepping in from Community Greenspace and Education, and another member of the committee taking the lead, the project had a fresh energy. The new team worked hard to pull together a stage two bid. This bid was a big effort by all and was thankfully successful and the project could start on site.

With momentum the project has now progressed well with all major works now complete and only small community projects left to be completed as of summer 2015.

#### Estimated costs

Initial Cost estimates were

- £45k for the basic replacement,
- £144k for a sketch improvement project
- £225k final project cost estimate
- £225k expected approx. final cost

#### Amount of external funding raised

Big Lottery Fund – Community Spaces - £183,450

Planning Gain – £33,000

PKC Environmental Challenge Fund – £10,000

#### Fund raising methods (e.g. grants, fundraising events)

Though no noted community fund level, Lottery agreed to cover % required in main project as initial set up for Stage One had an opportunity for funding to help create the project and this was never advised to the community. So through PKC and volunteer time and fund raising locally the project was created.

Group has a general fund as it runs its own park, pavilion, The Den and Park Warden, with

- Beer Festival
- Gala Day
- Other smaller fundraising events

Added value achieved (e.g. extra swings, bike area etc.)

The improvements have been well received and enhanced the area.

Methven play area is a Rural Play Area REAP which has 4 play items and 4 different activities. With the effort of the community, a contribution to PKC to maintain and their own park warden, the site has much more. In terms of play they have extra items such as Sand Pit, sand digger, Tunnel, Zip Wire, Basket Swing. The normal provision is Swings, Climber, Slide, roundabout and springie.

More than this the group also enhanced areas in the park with – Resurfacing / bollards of both car parks, upgrade of the BMX track, complete the circular park path, over 50 trees planted, wetland area, basketball area, benches, picnic benches, terrace for the possible future café pavilion, entrance features and notice board / history signage.

Next steps (e.g. raise money for skate park)

The group has worked very hard especially Alan Lewis Chairperson. Group will have a break to enjoy a beer and consider the possible phase two of looking at improving the pavilion with changing facilities and refreshments.

Before photo:







After photo: (any better pic?)





