

PARK/PLAY CASE STUDY

Name of park/play area: (e.g. Powrie Park)	Weller Poley Park
Location: (e.g. Abernethy)	Kinloch Rannoch
Group(s) involved: (e.g. Abernethy Environmental Association)	Weller Poley Park Recreation Grounds Committee
Date of opening:	29 th May 2011
Timescale:	Initial Contact Sept 2009 and final payment finished Sept 2009

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

The play park in Kinloch Rannoch was in urgent need of upgrading. The last improvement was approx. 20 years ago. Perth and Kinross Council contributed £40,000 and the Group worked hard to fundraise towards the full budget of £80,000

Project aimed to promote community cohesion through working with local residents to provide good quality play provision within the area. Make a difference to the area by providing a high quality recreation facility in the area. Local families, children and young people will benefit from this project with access to high quality play and recreational facilities. People currently need to travel to Aberfeldy to access these, a round trip of 40 miles, not all families have access to private transport and 10% of primary pupils are in low income families and qualify for free school meals

The geographic spread of this area means that many children are particularly isolated, local research suggest that 25% of the current school roll have additional support needs which include emotional and behavioral support needs and would benefit from improved play facilities

There are no current facilities for young people within the area this facility would provide a point of contact for them

Visitors to the area will also benefit from these facilities as there are currently no play facilities available to them

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

The main obstacles faced by the project, was from the main funder and the main contractor going into administration.

The main contractor unfortunately went into administration close to the end of the project.

Positively this happened near the end of the construction work. PKC and community had to work quickly to complete the remaining works to get ready for the open day. This example also shows that for a community group having the professional support can really help and keep the group out of problems and liabilities. PKC were able to claim against the company for remaining work and delay in opening.

Negatively this caused delay in resolving the funding accounts with the main funder as we had to negotiate and agree final accounts with the administrator. Unfortunately this meant the community group were involved for far longer than normal.

The main funder had strict claim rules and issues with recording and managing the claim. This caused stress, excessive officer time, group time and the detail gathering of expenditure evidence. With the added issue of the contractor going into administration, the delays in finalizing the claims fell almost outwith the funder program timescales. Lesson learned that the larger the funding or if EU based, will have a more extensive claim and record structure which must be considered on officers and community group. Also that the larger funders prefer to be the lead funder and will want control over how payments are made.

Estimated costs

Works were estimated at £80,000
Final account was £75,000

Amount of external funding raised

PKC Capital Play £40,000
PKC Quality of Life £9,500
Weller Poley Committee £3,000
Rural Tayside Leader (EU) £32,000
Free Local Boulders and Logs
Local business support such as James Shorthouse Fencing Contractor, was very helpful and great when we needed to get the site complete for the open day following the Main Contractor going into administration.

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

Group had to raise £3000 as part of their % to the project. Hard work was done with

- Christmas card deliveries
- Donations tub
- Individual and Business donations

However the group came close to not reaching their target. In a small community with competing priorities and initial positive and negative attitudes to the project, had the affect of limiting some donations. However last minute donation helped them cross the target.

Since this time the park works have been well received and the sections of the community against the project are now promoting the site.

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

The project helped to change not only the play area, but also improvements to the park. With reduction of the shrubs next to the park, boundary improvements of fencing and notice boards, footpath to site, orchard, tree planting, track repairs. To the play area the funding allowed the site to have more equipment and improvements to the playscape with mounding, sand pit and natural play.

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

This was a one off project, but has given the community an example that projects can be successful.

Before photo:



After photo:



