

City allotment recognised with Keep Scotland Beautiful award

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An Aberdeen allotment has picked up a prize in Keep Scotland Beautiful's prestigious It's Your Neighbourhood awards.



Slopefield allotment was recognised with the 'Outstanding' level of achievement at the awards ceremony, held today [Wednesday 30 October] at the Albert Halls in Stirling.

It's Your Neighbourhood is a campaign aimed at community groups which make major improvements to their surroundings by cleaning and 'greening' their local area.

The campaign is run by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society and, in Scotland, is supported by fast-food restaurant chain McDonalds.

On visiting Slopefield allotment, the volunteer assessor commented: "A very high standard and variety of produce is evident throughout the allotment site, many of which are a joy and a surprise to see being grown in the North East of Scotland.

"There is an excellent community spirit, evident through the success of their community hut and social media, and they support local charities through selling surplus produce."

Derek Robertson, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: "Keep Scotland Beautiful is delighted that Slopefield allotments have been recognised with It's Your Neighbourhood awards this year.

"I would like to congratulate everyone who is involved in these projects, and would also like to commend the groups for helping to make the North East, and Scotland a cleaner, greener place for us all to enjoy today and tomorrow.

"Through community participation, gardening achievement, and taking responsibility for tackling the criminal activity of littering and dog fouling, It's Your Neighbourhood groups make a massive difference to our country."

Pam Whittle, President of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and Chair of Greenspace Scotland, who presented the certificates, added: "There is no doubt that encouraging greater community involvement in tackling and developing the local environment helps promote local pride.

"Volunteers undertake a tremendous range of activities and practical projects, including community gardens, allotments, working with local schools and the less attractive litter picking.

"It all helps and these awards recognise the tremendous effort and contribution made by volunteers."

It's Your Neighbourhood attracts the interest of hundreds of volunteers who commit thousands of hours to looking after their communities on a voluntary basis each year.

A total of 88 groups were visited during the summer by volunteer advisors who assessed each site on the themes of community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement.
