



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Slopefield Allotments Association	Assessment date: 18-8-2021
Name of assessor:	Jim & Wendy Henderson
Introduction: This is a large and very well-maintained allotment site, owned by Aberdeen City Council and run by an enlightened and forward-thinking management team of 12. There are 112 plot holders who help with specific projects when needed. They were the first allotments in Aberdeen to be awarded green flag status and have just been assessed for their 3 rd year holding this status.	
Section A - Community Participation	
<p>Covid has affected the group in many ways, particularly that they were unable to welcome the children from Airyhall School during lockdown, and their monthly community days were cancelled. They are now looking at how they can recommence these.</p> <p>Excess produce from the plots is given to The Allotments Market Stall, and the income from this is used for the benefit of the area.</p> <p>New plot holders are made welcome and are issued with a Guidance Sheet which makes their responsibilities clear.</p> <p>All plot holders are willing to help each other and enjoy sharing their knowledge.</p> <p>The Slopefield Allotments have a good reputation in the community.</p>	
Section B - Environmental Responsibility	
<p>There are three compost bins for the site, which are used to demonstrate best practice, and most plot holders have their own compost bins.</p> <p>They also have an area for woodchip and dry leaves which is filled by the council for the benefit of plot holders.</p> <p>The group have begun planting wildflower beds in the communal areas using seeds from the TSB project to encourage wildlife, and there are plans to expand this year on year. There was an abundance of bees and other pollinators throughout the plots.</p> <p>Tyres have been used to contain small flower beds which give a bright and cheerful welcome as you arrive and move around the site.</p> <p>Rainwater collection is achieved from sheds and greenhouses into containers, and is</p>	



available to all users.

Section C - Gardening Achievement

The plots in general are maintained to a very high standard, and poorly managed plot holders are warned promptly. They have very few problems in this area.

There is a system of micro plots, where new gardeners are brought into the group on small plots with a mentor helping them.

There is ample evidence of good gardening practices such as composting, green manuring and mulching.

Among the plot holders we were able to speak to, it was clear that there is a wealth of knowledge available and shared.

We were struck by the wide variety of plants being grown throughout the site, as well as the variety and individuality of the different plots.

OVERALL LEVEL ACHIEVED

Level 5 - Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

They have created a happy community with a sense of pride in their plots and place.

They have achieved Green Flag status for three consecutive years

Funds raised from the sale of excess produce were used to replace the decking outside their community hut for the benefit of all.

The bottle greenhouse has been shown to be the ideal environment for the sweetcorn which is thriving there.

The team have managed to keep the school plot working despite the fact that the children have been unable to visit.

Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor:

It is difficult to make any recommendations to such a successful team, other than to keep doing what they are doing!

Re-establish the school visits and the communal days as soon as possible.

RESULTS

Level	Description
Level 1	Establishing
Level 2	Improving





Level 3	Advancing
Level 4	Thriving
Level 5	Outstanding

