

Case Study:
Forfar in Flower
Angus



Stalled Spaces Scotland

Forfar in Flower was awarded Stalled Spaces Scotland funding by Angus Council to install a series of planters on a vacant, former industrial site.

The group was established four-and-a-half years ago, and followed on from another garden scheme in the town called the Forfar Botanist Garden. They identified and took on neglected areas within the town, and worked in partnership with local people and businesses to transform them.

The area chosen for the Stalled Spaces project was a piece of waste ground which had once formed part of a large factory site. It was available for development, and some interest had been expressed. However, in the five years since the construction of the Asda supermarket adjacent to the site, this part of the area had remained unused; it was overgrown with weeds; large buddleia plants and litter gathered there, which made it unsightly in a well-used part of the town.

The group became aware of the Stalled Spaces Scotland fund through Angus Council, who kept them regularly informed of funding opportunities. A council staff member helped with the application, and they received around £2,000; this paid for the planters; compost; trees; plants, as well as contributing towards the cost of clearing the area. When the site is developed, the planters will be relocated within the town.

“I think it’s a great idea if people can just make a pretty unattractive space look better in the short term.”

- Lynne Devine, Forfar in Flower



Through their work, the group has developed a good relationship with the local Social Work department, who own a large greenhouse; this has enabled them to do the planting preparation in a central location, as well as working with service users, which has benefited both parties. Additional money was received from the Environmental Trust for new staging and shelving for the greenhouse, providing more light and space.

The organisation was pleased to receive the Stalled Spaces funding, as they would not normally be able to consider this site for their work, requiring as it did, a temporary solution whilst the land was vacant.

The Parks Department have been particularly helpful, and the organisation have built up a good relationship with them. The work has had a positive impact on the community: when they are working, they wear “Forfar in Flower Volunteers” tabards; this has encouraged people to stop and interact; often saying how much difference the work in the space has made. They are also keen to encourage and support local businesses; the planters being commissioned from a local blacksmith.

The group expressed an interest in applying for similar funding in the future if they identified a suitable location. They prioritise areas which are noticeable to visitors and residents, as their purpose is to make the town look better.

“I think since we put the planters in it hasn’t been so littered, and it was the same with another area. Since we cleared it there has been no litter, and since the plants were in it’s been fine.”

- Lynne Devine, Forfar in Flower

Project Key Facts

£2,000

approximate Stalled Spaces Scotland funding awarded to Forfar in Flower

22

approximate number of hours contributed by volunteers to the project

8

number of volunteers who contributed to the project

For further information

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