

OBAN COMMON GOOD FUND GRANT - END OF PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

2014/15

The Common Good Fund needs to account for all funding allocated, and therefore request that you complete all sections of this form.

Name of Organisation: Hope 2 Oban- Green Shoots

Contact Details: Catriona Petit, The Well, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL
07775995650

Project Funded: Green Shoots Garden Project

Grant Allocation: £4000

1 Finance (Please provide a full breakdown of all costs)

The Projected costs were altered as we applied for £5000 and received £4000

Description (from original grant application form)	Projected Costs	Actual Costs
Fruit Cage / Fruit Maze This cost is more as we have decided to espalier the fruit trees to develop horticultural skills and create a space in the garden especially for children	£300	£600
Irrigation This is less as we have sourced a cheaper system and can only, due to the layout of raised beds in one of the polytunnels, apply to 2 of the 3 polytunnels.	£600	£350
Plants	£1400	£1400
Educational resources We have helped many of the groups apply for their own funding so many of the groups supply their own equipment and resources	£700	£500
Protective Clothing Some individuals have sourced other funds for protective equipment	£400	£300
Tools/storage We have received unexpected donations of tools from individuals and Lori have also donated tools.	£600	£400
Toilet rental We had to obtain planning permission for the composting toilet and so this delayed it's erection and so we had to hire a toilet so that individuals could access the garden	0	£250
Handrail for steps Once we renovated the steps we felt that a hand rail was needed to ensure safety.	0	£200

2 Match Funding (Please provide details of any match funding received)

Grant Scheme	Description	Amount

3 Did you meet the aims of the project – please give details? (The main facts and figures about actual activities, for example the number of people the organisation or project worked with and the main activities undertaken)

The project aimed to facilitate local individuals and groups from the Oban area to access outside space to develop skills and experience the many benefits associated with being outside, meeting people, growing fruit and vegetables and eating locally grown, healthy produce. The Common Good Fund has provided resources which have facilitated this to happen especially as the project was new and we had few tools and no seeds etc. Over the course of the year we have worked with over 40 regular volunteers, many of whom have experienced disadvantage. For some this has been a therapeutic intervention and for others it has helped them develop skills to be ready for work. Below are some of the issues experienced by volunteers.

- 28% are unemployed
- 40% are retired
- 43% have a significant physical health problem
- 50% experience mental health issues
- 30% are carers
- 62% describe themselves as isolated
- 15% are either in the care of the local authority or are care leavers
- 20% have experienced recent substance misuse.

In addition to this we have a number of groups who access the garden on a weekly/fortnightly basis. Altogether we have 50 people who access the garden in groups. Below is a list of the groups that use the garden.

- North Argyll Young carers
- North Argyll Carers
- Dementia Group
- Oban High School XL group
- Oban High School work experience placements
- Traveller Community
- Lorn Resource Centre
- Shellech View Children's Home
- Hope Kitchen
- Argyll College Work Placements

As well as this we had a very popular opening event and a Christmas Decoration Making event which attracted a further 150 members of the public. From April 9th onwards there will be an open garden every fortnight with activities aimed at adults and children.

4 What difference did your project make? (This section should also include examples of how individual participants/services users experienced the project/activity -case studies/quotes can be used)

The project has had a significant impact on volunteers who are not in education or training as 75% have achieved to either gain a college place/ employment. Job Centre Plus have highlighted the retention levels that we manage with the long term unemployed and those with additional needs. They have identified that this is due to the way that we remove barriers to people accessing the service and the way that we tailor each person's placement to their individual needs.

A number of young people (8) from the high school have achieved their Dynamic Youth Award and one young person is working towards his Youth Achievement Award. This is particularly impressive as the young people referred to the garden are predominately those with low attendance and challenging behaviour. This has been realised by good joint working with Argyll and Bute's CLD youth worker and the support unit at the High School.

The worker from the carers group gave the following feedback *"I am always amazed at how the group gels when they come up to the garden there are lots of big characters and sometimes in the centre it can be really hard for them to work together but here they are so relaxed. It is something about the combination of being in a beautiful place and the atmosphere of acceptance that you manage to create that makes it work."*

One of the carers of a man in the Dementia Group said *"This is the first time that Bob has been out of the house in 5 days, it's great to see him here and in his element he loves it up here and he can put all his gardening knowledge to good use."*

The following is a case study illustrates the work of the garden.

Tracey is a single parent living in a remote village in Argyll. Since her daughter, now 20, left school at 18 she has been a full time carer to her as she has learning difficulties and other health problems. She became involved in the garden 10 months ago, and helps 2 days a week, sometimes alongside her daughter. For Tracey, volunteering represents a contrast to being at home or walking around the Oban shops. For her daughter, it is the chance to take a break from her computer and do activities that are suitable for her, something which was difficult to access locally. Moreover they both enjoy spending time together doing something positive.

Tracey is an enthusiastic horticulturist. Having learned about the basics, she is now taking on a leadership role in the planning and development of the garden. Currently she is interested in planting heritage seeds to grow fruit and vegetables that were used by previous generations and fit well into the Victorian Walled Garden we are developing. Furthermore, she has good links to the community and has paved the way for a group of people with learning difficulties to get involved in volunteering at the garden too. Her next challenge, as a result of her experience as a carer, is to lead a group of carers who will be coming to the garden on a fortnightly basis to do a gardening and cooking project.

Tracey is an example of the how volunteering can be mutually beneficial as she has helped so much from the outset of the project and it has been lovely to see her flourish and grow in confidence using her knowledge skills and experience.

5 Key Learning Points Please detail any unexpected outcomes (positive and negative) including anything that would be done differently in the future.

One of the main unexpected positive outcomes has been the opportunities we have managed to offer to people who do not enjoy/want to garden. This has included fixing the walls, paths and steps, making wooden items for the garden, sheds, decking and raised beds. A lot of the volunteers in the garden have skills that have been very beneficial to its development. The Hope Kitchen group have been most surprising as many of the people accessing the kitchen have amazing skills and have helped in a variety of different areas.

Two aspects have been challenging. The first is the time it has taken to complete some of the renovation jobs with volunteers as the garden was built in the early 20th Century using imperial measures and traditional techniques and so to renovate the garden sympathetically has meant that

we have reverted to these techniques which is a lot slower.

The other area that has affected the progress is managing the different inputs and ideas of volunteers and ensuring that all volunteers are listened to and ideas incorporated but still maintaining an overall project plan. This process however has also been very beneficial as we have often eventually had a better than originally planned outcome.

6 Do you have any comments to help us improve the grant process?

The grant process was clear and straight forward and communication has been good.

Signature	
Print name:	Catriona Petit
Position held in organisation:	Project Coordinator
Date:	24.3.15

Please note: The Common Good Fund reserves the right to request copies of all receipts for expenditure.

PLEASE GIVE BREAKDOWN IN TERMS OF AGE AND GENDER

	MALE	FEMALE	0-4	5-9	10-16	17-24	25-64	65+
HOW MANY PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM THE GRANT?	55	35		5	20	10	30	25

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO: Danielle Finlay, Senior Area Committee Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW. Email: danielle.finlay@argyll-bute.gov.uk.