NEWSLETTER

PROGRESS UPDATE

2025

WELCOME

Friends of Forest Drive Park (FOFDP) was established in 2023, a unified movement to save our local green space by the community in Stonehaven. Our main aims are to try and improve, maintain, develop and protect the Park so it can be available to future generations for many years to come. We want to encourage everyone, young and old, to use, value and look after the Park, while providing a recognised body to facilitate this. This is done by working in partnership with the whole community, the local council and other organisations both local and national.

We promote the Park through social media, local events, fundraising and collaboration with local schools, groups and clubs. We want to make sure the Park is inclusive for all members of our community and most importantly, accessible by all abilities. We aim to develop a programme of activities, promoting the health and well being benefits of open green space aimed at all generations and capabilities.

Parks are a vital amenity for everyone of all age groups and every community, with a value which can be measured on various scales, ecology and biodiversity, health and wellbeing, leisure and recreation, quality of place and attractiveness as well as climate change adaptation and alleviation.

BIODIVERSITY
ADDITIONS

NO MOW MEADOWS
This initiative helps boost biodiversity by letting grass grow longer, wildflowers can bloom, providing essential food and habitats for insects, birds, and small mammals. Additionally, this approach contributes to climate action by storing carbon in undisturbed soils and improving resilience against extreme weather events. It also looks great.

PLANTERS
Aberdeenshire Landscape Services team gave us four planters to re-purpose which have been well received, three have been planted and replanted with a selection of flowers to attract bees, butterflies and other insects - they also look fantastic. The final one we planted up with herbs and a few edible plants, located near the mini orchard and free for Community use.

MINI ORCHARD FRUIT TREES
Greenspace Aberdeenshire provided us with eight fruit trees supplied by Scottish Heritage Fruit Trees, part of a drive to increase free to pick fruits in public spaces, improve visual amenity with pretty blossoms and berries, build planting and maintenance skills for people of all ages, and to support our insects and wildlife, particularly our pollinator friends. Funded by the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund, they have started to bloom already so the watering regime is paying off.

TREE VARIETIES
We were successful in securing thirty copse trees (Silver Birch, Rowan and Cherry Trees) from the Woodland Trust as part of free trees for community groups and schools programme. The Silver Birch provides food and habitat for over 300 insect species, the Rowan and Cherry Trees provide a vital source of food for birds and mammals. We recently planted a new Horse Chestnut and Oak trees to add to the diverse selection of trees in the Park.

WILDFLOWER SEEDS & BULBS
We were successful in securing a grant from the NESCAN Seed Fund which was used to purchase wildflower plugs from local Scottish growers John & Kate Malster from Rothienorman. Aberdeenshire Landscape Services team helped to prepare a new bed near the mound in the Park which was planted up a few weeks back. We are in the process of securing additional funding for native Scottish wildflower seeds which will also be sown in this area and around the Park to add more colour and variety.

PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITIES
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE
Freeing where we live from single-use

Friends of Forest Drive Park are fully behind the Plastic Free Pledge

FUNDRAISING

February - Quiz Night with Raffle and Party Games
May - Community Picnic and BBQ
June - Feein Market Water or Wine Stall with Park Treasure Hunt
November - No.44 Hotel & Bar Craft Fayre on behalf of Parkinson's UK

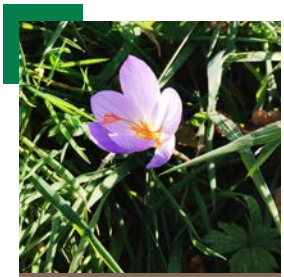
Check out our new event calendar on www.fofdp.co.uk

NEWS FLASH

Aberdeenshire Council have recently completed installation of new play equipment at Hamish Park after the Dunnottar Castle unit design was selected.
Check it out now!

COMPLETED
PROJECTS

Notice Board

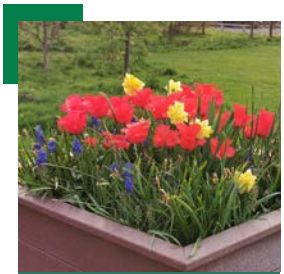


10k New Bulbs

30 Copse Trees

8 Fruit Trees & Wildflowers

New Benches & Picnic Tables



New Planters

OUR WEBSITE
If you have not had a chance to check out our website please scan the QR code above or enter the web address - www.fofdp.co.uk

It details why the friends group was setup, our aims and objectives, summary of our first year, details of our committee members, our constitution, meeting agendas, minutes, feature plan and all policy documents. We have also listed all funding partners, association memberships, information on no mow meadows, the community orchard, news and events, events calendar and our contact details.

UPCOMING
PROJECTS

BIRD BOXES, BAT HOUSES, BUG HOTEL & LOG PILE
We are looking to secure funding to cover the costs for these and hope to involve Mill O Forest School in positioning and building.

BEE PLANTER
We are looking to secure funding to cover the costs of this and will plant it up with additional herbs and edible plants.

MINI WETLAND / SCRAPE
We are looking to build a mini wetland area at one of the lowest points of the Park to help with water collection and improve biodiversity and wildlife.

HEDGEROWS
We are looking to secure funding for new hedgerows which will act as wildlife corridors and provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for a variety of species.

STORAGE CONTAINER WITH LIVING ROOF
We have lots of new tools and equipment for Park maintenance but no local storage available. We are looking to secure funding to cover the costs of purchasing a brand new one and add a living roof. This would be painted to blend in to the surroundings.

IBC FOR WATER STORAGE
You may have seen some of our Committee Team out watering all of the new trees we planted. This proved a logistical nightmare as water had to be re-filled at home and transported to the Park. On site water storage would allow us to water as needed using our trolley and allow for more ad-hoc watering.

PATH UPGRADES
This is a long-term project which we aim to raise funds for and then apply for additional funding to cover complete upgrade of all paths in the Park.

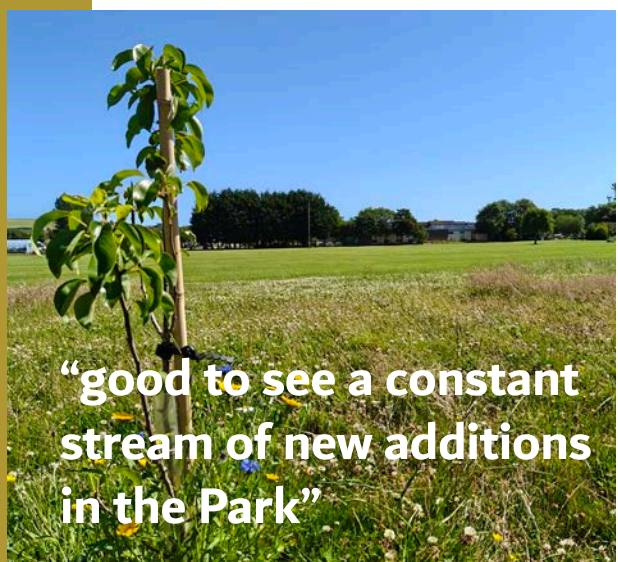
COMMUNITY

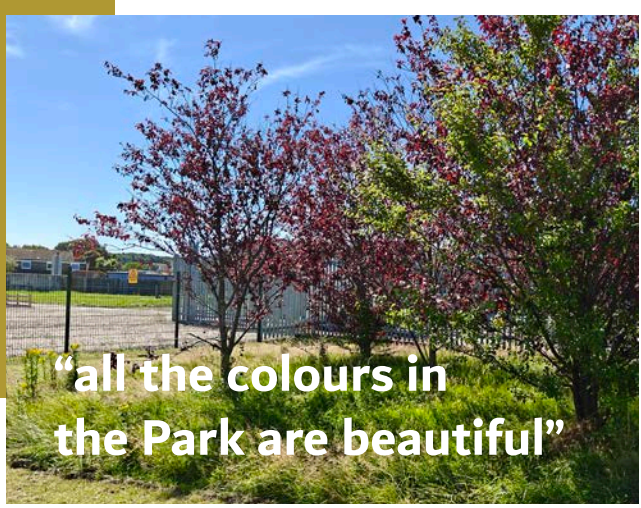
FEEDBACK

When we are working in the Park we have had a lot members of the public approach us and comment on how much better the Park is now. We also received a lot of positive feedback from people at the Stonehaven Feein Market which is great to hear - it shows us that all of the hard work makes a difference.

We have also got to commend Aberdeenshire Council who so often receive criticism and have quite a hard job to do with diminishing funds, their support has been essential in enabling Friends of Forest Drive Park to plan and put in place each project we have completed so far.

Other organisations have also played a central part in providing support, advice and funding while we navigate this journey - some of which are shown below. Friends of Forest Drive Park would like to say **THANK YOU** again to them all.





Kincardineshire Development Partnership · Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee · octopus investments · TDP · McIntosh Donald · Warburtons · Co-op · Aberdeenshire Council

ABZ Fund · Woodland Trust · The Bellman sharing Stonehaven's news · action EARTH · NESCAN · Keep Scotland Beautiful · North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership · TCV The Conservation Volunteers

BECOME A FRIEND MEMBER

Help shape the future of your Green Space - Anyone can join our friends group, it's completely free and you don't have to commit regularly, just help out when you can. Please email us, contact us via the website or speak with one of our committee members.

www.fofdp.co.uk | fofdp23@gmail.com | facebook.com/fofdp