

Case Study:
Milngavie Community Council
East Dunbartonshire



Stalled Spaces Scotland

Milngavie Community Council was awarded Stalled Spaces Scotland funding by East Dunbartonshire Council to work with volunteers on the restoration of a natural playscape. Dating from the 1970s, it is situated at the back of Milngavie Library and Community Education Centre.

The organisation has changed in recent years, and a local plan was created following a process of community consultation. From the information gathered, it was clear local people wanted investment in outdoor spaces, and so this Stalled Spaces Project was conceived.

The main aim of the project was for the area, on the route of the West Highland Way, to once again be used. Local people remember the space before it became overgrown; there had, at one time been play equipment and flower beds. Work was carried out by volunteers to clear it of vegetation; exposing the circular playscape surrounded by upright posts, most of which had survived for more than forty years. With the location so close to the library and community centre, they hoped people would also begin to see these facilities as the heart of the community; recognising the good work going on there.

“It’s next to a very well-used path, and one of the older gentlemen was saying it would be good to have a seat here. It’s great to get the feedback just from someone walking by.”

- Marianne Prentice, Milngavie Community Council



The community council became aware of the Stalled Spaces Scotland funding through a town centre steering group committee meeting. A workshop provided more information about the initiative, and the group followed projects on the Stalled Spaces website, as well as looking at what had been created in Glasgow, to see what might be supported.

The application was made by the Treasurer of Milngavie Community Council. They received support from the resource generation officer at East Dunbartonshire Council, who made site visits, and spent time advising on the paperwork that would be required for the funding application. They received an award of £3,000.

A lot of help was received from local councillors, one of whom was a regular volunteer. They contacted nearby country park rangers; the Milngavie in Bloom volunteers also helped on a weekly basis, and a social enterprise company supplied the bark required for the ground work.

Initially Stalled Spaces provided the only source of funding for this project, but the group plan to apply for other smaller grants to be able to deliver activities such as bird box workshops and bulb planting. A local after school group has been using the space, giving them a greater number of locations to visit as they meet throughout the year.

“It’s been really rewarding to work on.”

- Marianne Prentice, Milngavie Community Council

There has been excellent feedback from the local community, who were keen to see improvements made to the space. Following on from this work, the group signed up to It’s Your Neighbourhood: a version of the Britain in Bloom Campaign; from this they received flower seeds, and the site was assessed on community involvement and environmental impact. They were awarded the Level One Establishing Certificate, which they felt was a good way to measure the progress of the project as it continues.

The group expressed an interest in applying for other similar funding, and encouraged others thinking about such projects to have a go.

Project Key Facts

£3,000

Stalled Spaces Scotland funding awarded to Milngavie Community Council

20

The number of people involved in the delivery of the project

50

Number of hours contributed by volunteers to the project

For further information

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