



First Grow Wild Flagship announced in Scotland

Barrhead growing project wins £100,000 to help local community bloom

The team behind The Waterworks in Barrhead was today (Tuesday 12 November) celebrating being named Grow Wild's top Scottish community growing project, which will see the group awarded £100,000 of Big Lottery Fund money to complete their development for the benefit of their local area.

The Waterworks was named the winner following a vote by the people of Scotland to choose their favourite community growing project, which saw almost 20,000 people cast their vote online and at a series of community events.

Runners up included Belville Community Garden in Greenock which planned to deliver a community garden on the site of former high rise flats in Greenock to encourage community participation in healthy activities, and the Frog Pond Rises project in Livingston, West Lothian which would see a much-loved pond and park area undergo a transformation through wetland creation and the design of a wild flower structure. These runners-up will receive £4000 each to progress their projects.

The Waterworks in Barrhead aims to transform an abandoned sewage works into an industrial wildlife area for the community to enjoy, using derelict sewage tanks as giant experimental planters where beautiful displays of Scottish wild flower habitats can be carefully created. The project is being led by East Renfrewshire Council, in conjunction with Barrhead High School and Still Game community group for older residents.

The project will revitalise the area by playing on its industrial heritage and imaginatively using old structures to improve the quality of the environment and to give people the opportunity to enjoy native plants. It will also encourage both young and old members of the community to work together.

The site is located in the neighbourhood of Dunterlie in Barrhead, which is ranked by the Scottish Government as within the top 5% of Scotland's most deprived communities and the project will provide a valuable asset for the local community.

Convener for Infrastructure and Sustainable Growth, Councillor Tony Buchanan, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for our local residents. The funding will rescue land which has been lying derelict for 30 years and transform the site into something really special. Thanks to everyone who has supported the project to make it reality. I am looking forward to seeing the Waterworks become an area of natural beauty for local people to enjoy."

Environment Convener, Councillor Vincent Waters, who joined the youngsters at the site, said: "I am delighted that Barrhead Waterworks won. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the initiative particularly Barrhead High School, Green Academy, community groups, University of West

of Scotland, locals and staff. It's a fantastic award that the whole community will benefit from and will create a place where people can look forward to spending time in."

Grow Wild focuses on areas in need of regeneration in order to bring colour to local communities and drive community spirit. The campaign encourages organisations to reclaim underused spaces for nature and for local people. The Scottish Grow Wild campaign – the first in a series of UK wide campaigns to encourage three million people to take direct action for UK native plants - is supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, working in partnership with greenspace scotland and Youth Scotland.

In particular Grow Wild aims to engage young people by providing opportunities to take direct action and transform local green space, showcasing their drive and creativity to the benefit of the local community.

The Scottish project was the first to go ahead in the UK, with sites in England, Wales and Ireland following in 2015 and 2016.

Over the next three years, 250,000 seed-sowing kits will be distributed through Grow Wild partners, with the particular aim of reaching young people, aged 12 -25, and new audiences who wouldn't usually engage with environmental or community projects.

John Fellows, Head of Communications, Scotland, Big Lottery Fund said: "Grow Wild will help bring life and colour back to our communities. The Waterworks shows what's possible when a community comes together to make a difference to their own environment. We wish them every success with their project. "

Andrew Ormston, Grow Wild Scottish Projects, said: "I'd like to extend Grow Wild's congratulations to The Waterworks in Barrhead. The team has worked incredibly hard to develop plans for an inspiring and interesting development that has gained support not only from the local community but from people across the country.

"Grow Wild aims to bring communities together through sowing and growing native wildflowers and this is exactly what will be achieved through The Waterworks.

"I'd like to thank all the participants in this Grow Wild Scottish vote. The three Scottish finalists each put forward very strong proposals for projects that would really benefit their local community and biodiversity in their area. "

For details of how to get involved in Grow Wild activities in Scotland, please visit www.growwilduk.com.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Issued by the BIG Partnership on behalf of Grow Wild

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Notes to Editors

Grow Wild

Grow Wild is a dynamic £10.5m campaign to bring people and communities together to sow, grow and support UK native wild flowers. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Grow Wild aims to inspire people to get together to transform unloved urban sites, gardens and windowsills into wildlife-friendly wild flower patches. www.growwilduk.com

Throughout the campaign, votes were cast at vote.growwilduk.com or via voting cards at community events.

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG)

The Big Lottery Fund, the largest distributor of National Lottery good-cause funding, is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.

BIG is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and awards grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK.

Since June 2004 The Big Lottery Fund has awarded over £5 billion to communities across the UK.

Full details of the work of the Big Lottery Fund, its programmes and awards are available on the website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is internationally respected for its outstanding living collection of plants and world-class Herbarium as well as its scientific expertise in plant diversity, conservation and sustainable development.

Kew Gardens is also a major international visitor attraction. Its landscaped 132 hectares and RBG Kew's country estate, Wakehurst Place, attract nearly two million visitors every year. Wakehurst Place is home to Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, the largest wild plant seed bank in the world. RBG Kew and its partners have collected and conserved seed from 10% of the world's wild flowering plant species (c.30, 000 species). www.kew.org

greenspace scotland

greenspace scotland is an independent charity and social enterprise. Its goal is that everyone living and working in urban Scotland should have easy access to quality greenspace which meets local needs and improves quality of life.

Grow Wild is one of the ways that greenspace scotland is helping to transform urban spaces into people places. www.greenspacescotland.org.uk

Youth Scotland

Youth Scotland is the network of youth clubs and groups across Scotland. It is the largest non-uniformed youth organisation in Scotland and delivers quality youth work programmes, information,

resources, training and support to community based youth work across Scotland.
www.youthscotland.org.uk