Howwood Wildlife and Woodlands Group

Annual Report 2026

The Howwood Wildlife and Woodlands Group (Registered Scottish Charity: SC033831) has formally concluded its operational and financial year for 2026. This report outlines our community-led conservation efforts, village enhancements, and future plans as we continue our work within Howwood, Renfrewshire.

🌳 Chairperson's Welcome & Overview

This past year has been another highly successful period for our group. With the dedicated help of our volunteers, we continued our extensive work at **The Rhombus**, **The Triangle**, and across the village where we planted up all public pots and planters.

To boost our outreach, we displayed informational posters on notice boards at the Village Hall, the Rhombus, and at both the local church and chapel. This campaign attracted a great deal of positive attention. I am delighted to report that we **welcomed three new members** to our group this year—please join me in giving them a very warm welcome!

While unpredictable weather didn't always allow us to meet as regularly as we would have liked, our team adapted brilliantly. We maintained a steady routine of planting up pots, cutting back overgrown areas, and strimming to ensure our public green spaces remain neat, tidy, and beautiful for all residents.

🌿 Key Achievements this Year

Our volunteers and community partners have worked incredibly hard over the past twelve months to deliver several meaningful projects:

- **In Memoriam Tributes:** At the Rhombus, we planted an **Acer tree in memory of Bill David**, who sadly passed away late last year. We also purchased a **Christmas rose in memory of Scott Young**, whose vibrant enthusiasm and support for our group is deeply missed. We are touched that Scott's family are fully content with this memorial.
- **Youth Engagement:** The **Howwood Cubs and Scouts** partnered with us to make edible bird feeders as part of their challenge and activity badges. A huge thank you goes to them and their leader, Sarah, for their fantastic support.
- **Rhombus Site Upgrades:** We engaged a local gardening company to clear back major weed growth at the Rhombus. Following this, our volunteers cleared the

grounds and **created fresh bark pathways** leading directly to the wooden benches.

- **Infrastructure & Equipment:** To make our operations smoother, we purchased a **new garden shed**, water storage containers and various hand tools. We are incredibly grateful to the local garage, which has kindly agreed to site our new shed within their facility for secure and easy tool access.
- **Village In Bloom:** We purchased new square planters and dedicated plant boxes for the newly redecorated **Howwood Village Hall**. Combined with generous plant donations from friends, neighbours, and group purchases, these have provided a brilliant blaze of colour throughout the village.

🔮 Future Outlook: 2027 and Beyond

We have an exciting, ambitious vision to make the Rhombus an even more inclusive sanctuary for both wildlife and people:

- **Sensory & Fairy Gardens:** We plan to create a fairy garden, a wildflower patch, and a dedicated **Sensory Garden** at the Rhombus designed to engage sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste.
- **Accessibility:** We will lay down additional woodchip pathways and clear more open areas at the Rhombus to keep weeds under control and make the seating areas around the front benches more appealing.
- **Wildlife Support:** New planters and bird feeders will be installed to actively encourage birds and local animals to visit the site.
- **Secured Funding:** I am absolutely delighted to share that we are on track to receive **£1,000 in funding from the Howwood Community Council**. This award will significantly boost our existing funding streams and give us the security to map out long-term projects.
- **Infrastructure & Equipment:** We plan to purchase battery-powered leaf blowers to make it easier for all volunteers to use them.

🤝 Final Thoughts & Volunteering

We are only able to make these positive changes in our village because of the passion of our members and community volunteers. A massive thank you goes out to everyone who gave up their valuable time to help us this year.

We are always looking for enthusiastic people to join our community efforts! If you or anyone you know is interested in getting involved, **we meet every Wednesday and Saturday between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM**. Everyone is welcome.