Annual Report

Community Impact, Activities and Achievements

1. Community Feedback and Volunteer Engagement

Feedback from members and the wider community continues to be overwhelmingly positive. Members regularly express how proud they are to be part of the group and to witness its positive impact on the village. Community members frequently comment on how lovely Polmont looks when gardening volunteers are working within its green spaces, with similar appreciation expressed by visitors to the village, including those from areas without comparable community groups.

Across both branches of the group, volunteers demonstrate a consistently positive and cohesive attitude, united by a shared ambition to make our community a prosperous and enjoyable place to live. It is particularly encouraging to see people coming together, enjoying themselves and developing meaningful connections through their involvement.

Volunteer numbers have continued to increase, reflecting growing engagement and support for the group's activities and objectives.

2. Green Spaces and Community Projects

Our largest garden project to date has become a particularly valuable addition to the community, providing a beneficial new space where people can relax, enjoy a sense of calm alongside nature and spend time within a peaceful environment. It also offers a meaningful place to remember loved ones, particularly for those who may be unable to honour or visit them in other ways.

We continue to strive to make our green spaces accessible to people of all abilities and ages, ensuring they remain welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone. Alongside improving the appearance and accessibility of these spaces, we maintain a strong focus on sustainability, supporting wildlife and providing opportunities for people to learn more about nature and the environment.

These ongoing efforts have contributed to an increasing sense of community spirit and collective pride throughout the village.

3. Events and Community Partnerships

Our main annual events, including Holly Jolly Christmas and our Easter celebrations, continue to provide valuable opportunities for residents, charities, local businesses and other community groups to come together.

We remain committed to supporting all those involved in these events wherever possible, recognising the importance of collaboration and partnership in strengthening community relationships and delivering successful activities.

As in previous years, and continuing the approach established before becoming a registered charity, our events remain free to attend, with no entry fees. Games and activities are either provided free of charge or offered at extremely low cost, helping ensure our celebrations remain accessible and inclusive for the wider community.

We continue to work in partnership with other organisations, businesses and community associates wherever possible, strengthening relationships and encouraging shared involvement in local initiatives.

4. Wider Recognition and Community Influence

Polmont is increasingly attracting visitors from across the UK and Europe, with growing numbers of tourists stopping in the village as part of their journeys between cities. Visitors are frequently seen taking photographs of the village and its surroundings to share with friends and family back home.

It is particularly encouraging that our group, which has now been established for several years, has inspired other community groups to consider how they might improve and enhance their own local green spaces. This demonstrates the wider influence of our work and the potential for community-led environmental improvements to inspire positive change beyond our own village.

5. Governance and Organisational Development

During the reporting period, we undertook a review of our constitution, resulting in an updated and more condensed version. This was completed following discussion with, and agreement from, our members, ensuring the document remains relevant, accessible and reflective of the group's current position and objectives.

Conclusion

Throughout the year, our volunteers, members and community partners have continued to demonstrate the value of collective action, community pride and environmental stewardship. We remain committed to enhancing Polmont's green spaces, creating accessible opportunities for community participation and delivering inclusive events that bring people together.

The continued growth in volunteer participation, positive community feedback and increasing recognition of our work are encouraging indicators of the lasting contribution our group is making to the village and its wider community.