

Kilmacolm Eco Space

Trustees' Annual Report

2024/2025

March 2026

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About Us

Kilmacolm Eco Space exists to advance the physical, mental, social, and environmental wellbeing of the community in Kilmacolm

We aim to do that by developing a sustainable community resource that provides access to nature, growing opportunities, and other outdoor activities, where local residents of all ages and abilities can increase their skills, well-being and confidence. A dedicated growing space will nourish the community who use it, and the wildlife it supports.

Our volunteers are local growing and wildlife enthusiasts, and our activities are intended to benefit; people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities ; residents with smaller or no private gardens; local Schools and Youth groups; neighbours who might otherwise be isolated; and of course, pollinators, invertebrates, and birds.

Our objectives are focused on key social and environmental policy areas

Self-Sufficiency

Social Inclusion

Reducing Waste

Mental & Physical Wellbeing

Food Poverty

Meet the Trustees

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Matt has been a resident of Kilmacolm for ten years and has actively engaged in community life, by jointly setting up village specific Facebook groups for plant sharing and DIY. He has been a key contributor in helping to restore the local Primary school growing space.

Matt's professional background is surveying, having been a local government officer working as a manager in a busy property team for 21 years.



Annie has lived in Kilmacolm since 2010 where she stays with her husband and three children. Through family life, Annie knows many local families, and is keen to promote children spending more time in nature and learning about their environment. Annie volunteers on nature projects in the Village Primary, and fundraises for the Senior School.

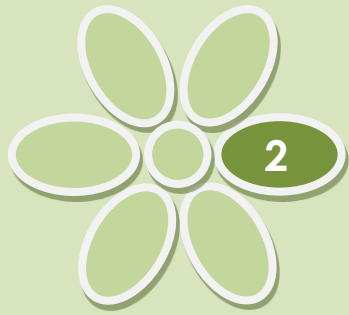
Annie's professional background is as a Consultant Haematologist where she has learned many transferrable skills including project management, leadership and chairing roles, and research grant writing.

Andrew is a keen local grower, and as a Kilmacolm resident of more than 40 years, he has an understanding of what thrives in the area. He brings knowledge and experience from his past career in operational, change, and leadership roles in the financial services industry.

As a Trustee, Andrew's relevant skills include stakeholder management; communication; project co-ordination; and administrative and committee expertise.

Valerie has worked for 39 years in the voluntary sector; latterly as chief executive of a Scottish-wide charity working to relieve isolation among older people. Her expertise includes project management, fundraising, training, volunteer recruitment, and coordination.

Valerie is also a volunteer with Parklea Branching Out and has first-hand experience of the therapeutic value of a horticultural environment, and the health and wellbeing benefits horticulture brings to a range of people.



Activities



Using natural materials, which we foraged locally, we showed Primary School pupils how to make attractive and sustainable **Christmas Decorations**

which were later presented as gifts to older residents at the community cafe lunch club.

While we continue to pursue a lasting location for a community growing space in Kilmacolm, we undertake a wide range of outreach activities, as well as partnering with a Primary School.

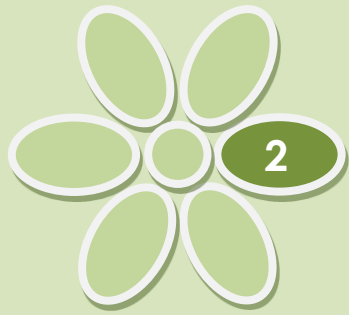


Our Volunteers stepped up to **Restore the Garden** at Kilmacolm Primary, following the devastating effects of Storm Eowyn. We took the opportunity to expand the growing areas, so even more pupils can get involved in gardening.



In the Spring, our popular annual community **Seed Swap** gave neighbours a chance to share spare seeds, or pick up some seeds for free, allowing many to try 'growing their own' for the first time.





Activities

As well as swapping surplus plants at our community **Plant Share**, we visited the school Summer Fete with home-grown plants for sale.



After a successful first growing season, we were delighted to start **Sharing Harvests** in the community, including with the local Food Network, and community centre cafe.



Several of our willing volunteers undertook **Seed Sowing** with classes from the local Primary School.

The little growers learned lots about what seeds need to germinate and grow successfully.



Outcomes and Impact



143

Volunteer hours at
Kilmacolm Primary
School



Kilograms of fresh,
home-grown produce
shared in the
community



Trees planted



More than

60

seed packs swapped or
gifted, with SIX new growers
in the community



Learning opportunities

for

100

school pupils



Finance

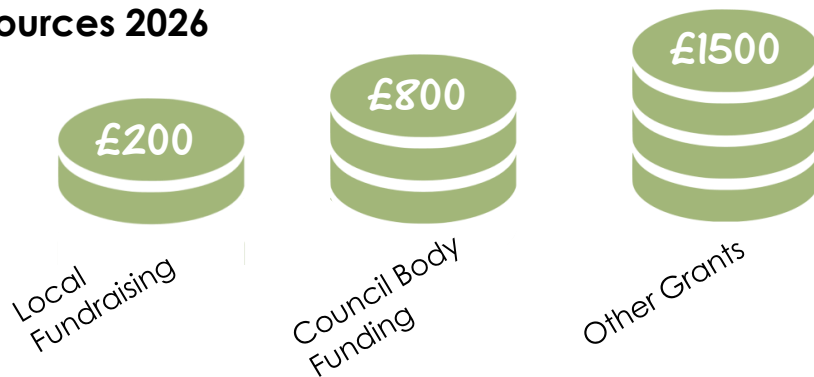
As a Charitable Organisation, our initial Direct Costs and Capital Expenditure (mostly all associated with growing space Start Up), will be almost wholly reliant on grant funding.

Once a permanent location is established, our day to day funding requirements will be sourced from Memberships / plot rentals, Donations, and a Friends Scheme.

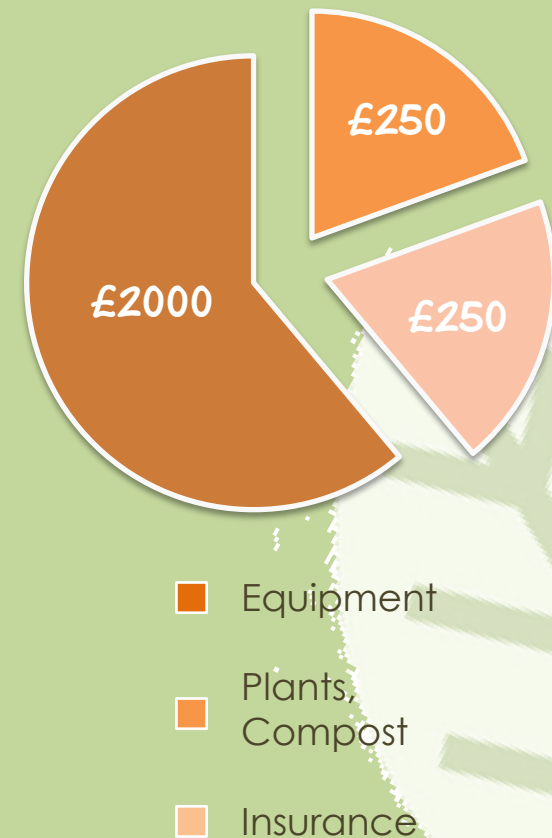
Our aim is become financially self-sustaining within our first 18 months of fully functioning onsite, and to meet all day-to-day and fixed annual costs, such as Public Liability Insurance, through revenues from subscriptions and fundraising.

To meet our anticipated budget for next year's plans we will require to utilise available funding sources for capital purchases, such as planters and tools, as well as exploring other local fundraising opportunities for day-to-day expenses.

Projected Funding Sources 2026



2026 Expenditure anticipated breakdown



Future Plans



We will continue to pursue a more lasting location for a 'permanent' community growing space. While the preferred site has changed ownership, we will continue to re-engage with the new landowners to make our ambitions known and to open dialogue for a future agreement.



Plans are already underway to scope locations for 'micro gardens' as part of an Edible Trail throughout the village.



We will continue to engage with the community through growing and environmental themed outreach activities, and will maintain intergenerational support through our partnership at the primary school garden.



Support

Kilmacolm Eco Space is grateful for the encouragement, advice and financial support from the following;



Thank You!

