

REPORT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

DALMUIR PLOTS ASSOCIATION REGENERATION PROJECT

The first phase of the Dalmuir Plots Association re-generation programme began on the 12th December 2005.

The 1st phase of the project involves having the site cleared of all the old huts, greenhouses and general rubbish which has accumulated over the years.

The Association had instructed the contractors that all glass, wood and metal had to be separated and transported off site to a company who recycle such materials, thus diverting a huge amount of waste from landfill.

It is the aim of the Association to use, where possible, recycled and reclaimed materials within the new building, sensory garden and wetland/wildlife areas. This fits in with the objectives of the groups re-generation programme.

Dry weather during most of December allowed the site to be cleared of most waste materials. Unfortunately, heavy rain towards the end of the year and into early January slowed down progress, as the soil turned to deep mud.

The architects employed by the group were instructed mid January that a Site Investigation had to be done. This has been carried out and samples of soil sent off for analysis. As soon as the results are obtained, work can resume again.

Clydebank Re-built; who have given us elements of works in kind will also have contractors on site. They are widening Agamemnon Street, and taking a strip of land from the allotments in order to do this. Hopefully these works will not impinge our progress too much.

Update: Results of the site investigation survey, no problems were identified and work was allowed to commence on the second stage of the project.

The second phase of the project began mid March with the installation of a new security fence on the south boundary. In the past we had experienced a problem with vandalism as there wasn't a secure fence to keep the perpetrators out. Once this was in place the ground works contract could begin.

New path ways have been laid throughout the site. The main path will be constructed in tar to accommodate our new tractor/ trailer and emergency services vehicles should they be required. All other side paths will be made of compacted whindust over a hard core base.

Concrete slab pads will be installed to house the ploholders custom built 6' x8' huts and 6'x8' green houses. The solid heavy steel huts are manufactured to our specification with sustainability in mind and are virtually vandal proof.

At the moment we are in the process of installing internal fencing and gates to separate each plot. Again for reason of sustainability, it will also be constructed in steel posts and wire.

We have been advised by the landscape architects that we should wait until the community /visitors centre has been completed before we make a start on the sensory garden and wildlife areas. The fact that the community garden areas will be situated to the front of the building it would be very difficult to put the garden in place until all heavy construction of the building has been completed. When we first began to plan the project it was envisaged that the whole project from start to finish would take approximately 3-5 years to complete. The over whelming response by funding partners has moved plans along much faster than we had anticipated. We have now almost completed the regeneration of the ploholders area within the site in less than 1 year.

In May our new huts arrived. This was very exiting. At the same time, we received a visit on site from Colin Anderson WDC Greenspace [who are part funding the sensory garden/wildlife area as are Community Renewal Improvement Scheme, Forward Scotland] and two colleagues from Greenspace Scotland, so they were able to see them being put in place.

During a tour of the site I explained the layout to them and talked about what we planned to do in the community areas and visitor/education centre. I was able to clarify why the sensory garden has been put back until completion of the visitor/education centre. Everyone was in agreement it made sense to wait as we don't want our lovely new gardens being over run by JCB's and construction workers in big boots!

I have attached an artist's impression of how the community areas will look on conclusion of works.

In June the bunker walls for the community composting area were delivered. As soon as the ploholders are settled in to their new allotments we can begin taking green waste from Dalmuir Community Concierge Services and get the plans for community composting programme underway. It is envisaged that we will divert 100 tonnes of green waste from landfill in the first year of operating.

The grant awarded from Community Recycling Network Scotland has allowed us to purchase solid steel portable bunker walls, tractor and trailer, shredder, chipper and new hand tools.

We are now only approx £300,000.00 short of our projected total costs. The task of fundraising for the building, the 3RD phase of the project, is well underway at present. WATCH THIS SPACE!!



Impression of completed allotment site