

Touch Community Garden Our Story

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Project Context

- South Dunfermline, urban area
- Mix of high flats and terraced housing.
- Touch sits within the most deprived 10% of households in Scotland (SIMD).
- Residents wanted to upgrade the community garden. (Touch Community Action Plan 2018 – 2023, Coalfields Regeneration Trust)

Touch Community Garden July 2020



Touch Community Garden July 2020





The Original Garden March 2024 Upgrade

- Open layout
- Community Noticeboard
- Bin
- Edible hedging
- Accessible paths and new seating
- A new 'bump area' for local residents



March 2024 (cont)

- Community Food Growing Area
- Adopted trees
- Pergola with honeysuckle
- Bike racks
- Accessible paths
- ...and a perfect sized circle for a bouncy castle

Meadow, Orchard & Growing Area



Our Container

£24000 Utilities Storage Seating Bookcase Cushions Kitchen Paint Flooring Fridge



BAM Construction GP Joinery Signature Décor Forth Marine Textiles Deanestor Carnegie Rotary Club
Fife Council National Lottery Coalfields Regeneration Trust



Expected Benefits

- Improved greenspace
- Urban regeneration

Expected Challenges

- Community buy-in
- Vandalism

In 2020, they told us....but in 2024....

2020

- Fencing – “Its Touch, honestly you would be better with a 6ft steel fence round it and just keep it locked when you’re not there, otherwise it will get trashed” (Police Scotland)
- Bins – “Really reluctant to put a bin in the garden because it’s Touch and someone will set fire to it” (Fife Council)
- Doing up the garden – “ I admire you for trying, but it’s Touch it will just get wrecked, hopefully not, but probably” (local resident)

2024

- Fencing – none. The garden is completely open plan.
- Bin – Fully intact and well used
- Doing up the garden - The same local resident acknowledges how much they love the garden and that it has not been trashed

The Bad

Planning permission

The lease

Reliance on Volunteers

Utilities

The contractors

Anti-social neighbour





Wider Social Benefits

- Building Community
- Genuine local pride in the garden area
- Help with social isolation
- Anti-poverty
- Much improved community and council links
- Creation of a community hub
- Reduced anti-social behaviour in garden area
- Linking with other groups across the area to do large joint community events

The Good



Working together



Building community.



Helping people



A beautiful community garden



Local pride



Partnership working



Making social connections



Community voice

Our community



Having fun





Whats the best thing about the garden project for you?

“Everything. It means we care about the community.” (Kev)

“Appreciation of our dedication and hard work to take a run-down area within a tired estate and make it work for the community.” (Lorna)

Support, signposting
and advice

Partnership

Planning Permission

Community voice

Transformative

Being Part of a Larger
Green Project – a
community perspective

Has it been worth it?
100% Yes