Three Year Sustainable Management Plan

for

The Millennium Garden

1. Introduction
   1. Name - The Millennium Garden
   2. Location – Drumlithie (see appendix A)
   3. Landowner – Mr Mike Forbes,

Broombank Farm,

Drumlithie,

Aberdeenshire.

* 1. Other Stake Holder

Glenbervie and District Community Association SICO – Janettee Hayati

Glenbervie Primary School – Lisa McConachie – Class Teacher + Forest School Leader

Drumlithie Improvement Group (DIG) - Janettee Hayati

1. **Brief Management History**

The land was gifted to the village by Mr Forbes (local land owner) because it has very little farming value to him. The aim of was to create a wood land which would allow villagers somewhere to walk.

This land is part of an area known as Drumlithie Bog which runs from Glenbervie along the back of the village down to East Coast Vinners. In 2000 villagers (appendix B) cleared the land as it had been used as a dumping ground for locals. Once the area was cleared paths were dug around a group of established trees. New trees were then planted around the edge of the land. It was decided that only flora which is native to Britain would be planted.

At the entrance of the garden there is a well which was the main water source to the village. This is known as The Harvey Well, which has resulted in the woodland being referred to as the Harvey Garden.

Attached to the woodland is the local primary school’s garden.

Over the last few year the Drumlithie Events Committee (DEC) have organised a tidy up in the woods.

1. **Users of the woodland**

- Dog walkers use the woodland on a daily basis

- Other walkers use to paths regularly

- Glenbervie Primary use the woods weekly for Forest School

- Means Playgroup

- Drumlithie After School Help (DASH) –use the site during the school holidays

- Carronhill School

1. **Brief description of landscape/topography/features of the site**

The site is at the bottom of a heavily farmed valley.

Drumlithie Burns run through the site. Several other little burns, including the Harvey Well join the burn at the entrance.

The site has a mix of native trees. There is a group of trees which were established before the site was set up. The trees around the edge of the site are 15 years old.

The ground next to the burn is very marshy and has had willow planted in it.

1. **Flora and Fauna**
   1. **Flora**

It was decided that when planting the trees that only native species would be used. There is a wide selection of trees in the woodland –

* Hazel
* Willow
* Birch
* Blackthorn
* Elderflower

The trees which were planted in 2000 have been planted in the style of a plantation. There is however plenty of room between the trees to allow growth.

* 1. **Other Flora**
  2. **Fauna**

Deer live in nearby woodlands and have been spotted in the Millennium Gardens. They come to the burn to drink.

There is also evidence of mice as hazelnuts have been found that have been with teeth marks.

Small birds – robins, blackbirds have also been spotted

We even have a resident cat who is regularly spotted hunting in the woods.

1. **Factors impacting on the woodland and how they will be managed**
   1. **Denudation**

A policy of look and only take a little is adopted when Forest School is taking place.

Wood is burnt on site, kindling is used from the site while bigger logs are brought to the site.

6.11 **How this will be managed –**

Children are encouraged to look at the environment around them and enjoy it as it is. The school has also applied for more cameras so that pictures rather than taking flora back to school. It is also explained to the groups that while it might be a good idea to take Hazelnuts there are animals that rely on the nuts.

It is encouraged to leave dead wood allow as it is an important part of the ecosystem with in the woodland. When the annual tidy up takes place a braches which have cut are burnt on site. It is planned that at the next tidy up these branches will be broken down and stored for Forest School.

If Forest School requires a fire then wood is brought in from offsite but kindling is sought after on site.

* 1. **Compaction**

There is a well maintained path in the woodland, which allows access to all. Most users tend to stick to path.

The area around the fire pit has become very muddy because of regular use.

**6.21 How this will be managed –**

The path will be repaired when required.

Area around the fire pit to be covered in woodchips.

* 1. **Pollution**

Litter is picked up by teachers when Forest School takes place.

There is a high level of nitrogen in the soil because of the nearby fields which has resulted in lots of nettles growing.

**6.31 How this will be managed**

There is a bin at the entrance of the wood which is emptied by the council. A second bin at the other end of the site maybe useful however volunteers would be required to empty it.

To help with the high levels of nitrogen source some other wild plants that thrive on Nitrogen.

* 1. **Corruption**

Spanish Bluebells and other non-native plants

**6.41 How this will be managed -**

Spanish Bluebells are being taken out as their not a native species. This was started last year and will continue.

When the community plant new trees and plants they can only plant things which are native to Britain.

* 1. **Erosion**

Due to recent heavy rains the path by the burn has eroded away. The burn has also widened which has resulted in one of the access routes having to be closed. The heavy rain is also causing the road to collapse which means that when accessing the woodland care has to be taken.

**6.5 How this will be managed –**

It has been suggested that a boardwalk is put where the path washed away. This would mean that if the burn burst its banks then the water would flow under and over the boardwalks.

More willow trees to be planted in the boggy part to try and soak up some of the water. To help control the run off the fields a series of trenches need to be dug to channel the water down to the burn.

The second access point will need to close until the path is widened and the banks are stable.

The road is an ongoing issue which the Community Association is dealing with as it is a private road.

The reason why the woodland has become very boggy this year is because the field across from the woodland has been drained. The field used to have a marshland at the end of field. This controlled the amount of water which drained in the woodland. The farmer has now drained the field to allow him better usage of his field. We have also had an exceptional amount of rain fall this year.

Woodland site – The Millenium Garden



