



### Chairperson Report ~ September 2017

It has been a very busy year for the Shieldhill Butterfly Project (SBP) with many ups and downs, frustrations and amazing achievements. To finally see the garden develop from an unusable space to something that the whole community can enjoy has been very interesting and a learning curve for all on the committee, often very steep at times.

The project progressed slowly as RGM were not very often on site and the project was taking a lot longer to complete than the 6 to 8 weeks originally stated by RGM. Despite our best efforts and those of Michael Burt, Vialii, communication and work stopped completely early in 2017. SBP wrote to RGM to ask their intentions with regards to the project and although they agreed to repair poor quality work around the garden, this was done to a very poor standard and shortcuts were taken. Outstanding work on the hopscotch and chessboard were not completed and an agreeable solution could not be found with regards to the balustrade. On July 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 SBP wrote to RGM to advise that with immediate effect their contract had been terminated and no further payments would be made.

The successful elements of the project include a beautiful Girlguiding mosaic (thanks to Katy Galbraith) and amazing flowers, trees, herbs with a wee crop of blueberries and raspberries (thanks to Klondye Garden Centre and a community of helpers). SBP have been working with Bennybeg Smithy, Crieff (sister company to A L Gordon, Falkirk) and the gates have now been resized to fit with the path/entrance at Anderson Crescent, with beautiful designs agreed. There is a useable garden space now, although it is not complete and there are still elements to be done to make it completely safe for all within the community. This is the reason for the delay in the garden party, to finally open the garden to the community.

The SBP committee have analysed the project and taken a course of action to complete the project including, quotes from new contractors for outstanding and additional work and liaising with LEADER for additional funding (in principle LEADER has been agreed, as the current situation is no fault of the SBP). Unfortunately the weather and time of year is against us for getting some of the work completed, however we will press ahead with what we can, which should leave only small elements for completion in the new year.

I would like to say a very big thank you to the SBP committee for their continued commitment to the project and I appreciate that, at times, it has not been easy throughout the last year. I would also like to thank the community who have helped with planting, weeding, hedgehog box/bug hotel 'construction', grass cutting as well as donations of bark. Finally, thanks to Michael Burt, Vialii for his continuing commitment to our project and, Yvonne Elder for keeping our claims process with LEADER on track throughout their teething problems and issues with the Scottish Government computer system.

A true community spirit for this project will see an amazing space in Shieldhill for every age group, furry creatures and not so furry, birds and insects; all will be most welcome to visit. See you all at our Garden Party in 2018.

Elaine McDiarmid  
Chairperson