

September 2011 Update

We have been asked by some members of the community why we have left areas of long grass in Donaldson Park. As part of the Placecheck Initiative, improvements were proposed to the park. In the proposals shown to the public, were areas of long grass with wildflowers and bulbs aimed at improving the park and discouraging teenagers from hanging around on the hill. These proposals were exhibited in May 2010 for two weeks. A positive response was received to the proposals. The Community Council have been involved with the Placecheck process since the beginning and also have raised no issues with the proposals.

As part of the process a class from the Milnathort Primary School and a Community Council member helped plant 660 wildflower plugs in the long grass area in May 2011 and in October we hope to work with another class to plant 500 bulbs.

Wildflowers, bulbs and fruit trees will take time to establish before coming a fixed part of the parks character. Maintenance is key in establishing wildflowers, the plan is to cut and lift once a year and this cut will be conducted over the next month depending on the weather. The idea of lifting the cut grass is to reduce nutrients in the soil and help spread the seeds of the wildflowers. This will be done with a farm bailer, however with community and children's involvement in establishing wildflowers as part of say a eco school project, PKC could cut the grass and the community could help rake the grass into piles which PKC could easily lift.

There can be a view of long grass as messy, holding litter and dog mess or the other more positive view is to see it as creating habitat for wildlife, adventures for play and enhancing the space from a green desert.

Dog mess is the responsibility of the owner and we encourage residents to advise our dog section details of who and what time these individuals are allowing dog fouling.