



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Riverside Naturally	Assessment date: 22nd July 2019
Name of assessor: Colin Ainsworth	
Introduction: Riverside Naturally evolved from the original planting in 2012 of a community orchard on a piece of ground in Riverside Park. It gained charitable status this year (2019). The group is committed to the improvement of the environment in the riverside area of Stirling.	
Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)	
The group is working towards things such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the local Community Council, Stirling Council and the local bowling club to bring ideas into fruition. It has a very good web site (riversidenaturally.org) which gives up to date information on the groups activities. 	
Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	28
Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)	
The group is in early negotiation with Stirling Council regarding the control of Himalayan Balsam which is a problem in this area of the River Forth. Held one Planet Picnic. There is an established 'wildflower' area adjacent to the bowling green which is to be sown with yellow rattle with plans to extensively extend this area in the near future.	
Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)	15
Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)	
The community orchard is well managed with labeled trees and good husbandry practices being carried out. There are ongoing discussions with Stirling Council regarding the group taking responsibility for established but tired tree and shrub beds along the side of the River Forth.	
Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	24
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	67
LEVEL ACHIEVED	Level 3 - Advancing

Areas of achievement: The official charitable status which will give the group credence when going for funding and representation in the future. The fact that as a young group they have extensive plans which if and when they come to fruition will change this area along the River Forth into an interesting and diverse area as opposed to what is a pleasant but slightly sterile place at present. The Community Orchard is very well planted and managed and the plans for extending the wildflower meadow will only help the orchard by bringing in more pollinating insects.



Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor: The group have big plans which seem well thought out and are very close to gaining legal responsibility and ownership of the land around the community orchard and adjacent grassed area. Thought does need to be given to disposal of unwanted material especially the turf which is planned to be stripped off in the formation of the wildflower meadow extension. Try to utilise the turf material into enhancing the area either by stacking correctly to give a source of good fibrous top soil or by making small turf banks to help with changes of level on what is a flat area.

As an alternative to turf stripping perhaps thought should be given to a deep scarification which while not getting rid of the grass would expose enough soil to sow out with the wildflower mix whilst not bringing as many dormant weed seeds to the surface. The scarified material would have to be removed and composted.

RESULTS

Level	Description	Points
Level 1	Establishing	0-35
Level 2	Improving	36-52
Level 3	Advancing	53-68
Level 4	Thriving	69-85
Level 5	Outstanding	86-100

