

GROW WEST FIFE
(SCIO Number SC051026)
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

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REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED
30 NOVEMBER 2024

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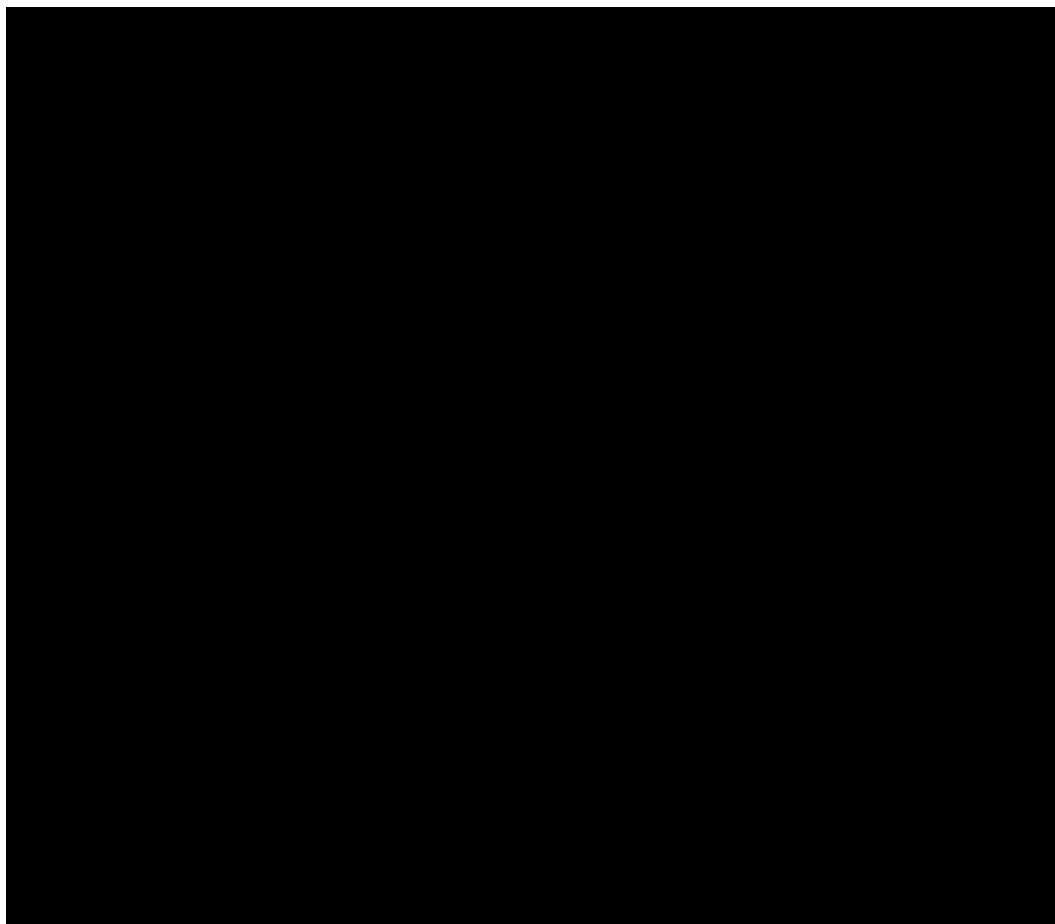
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GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Report of the Trustees'

For the twelve months ended 30 November 2024

Reference and administrative information



Bank

Royal Bank of Scotland, 54 East Port, Dunfermline, KY12 7JB

GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the twelve months ended 30 November 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published 16 July 2014.

Structure, governance and management

Grow West Fife SCIO is a two-tiered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation established under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Its activities are guided and monitored by its trustees and accountable to its members under the terms of its constitution

Objectives and activities

The charitable purposes of Grow West Fife are:

- the relief of poverty; (a)
- the advancement of education; (b)
- the advancement of citizenship or community development; and (f)
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. (m)

Grow West Fife's objects in pursuit of these purposes are to encourage cooperation and mutual support to produce food for local consumption in a growing project for all, and to promote wider community knowledge of food growing, harvesting and preparation.

Achievements and performance

The last year has been one of tremendous growth and progress by our volunteers, and Grow West Fife as a charity, in which strong achievements were recorded in the face of significant obstacles.

Despite a cold, wet year, our volunteer gardeners managed to grow a wide variety of organic vegetables, including bumper crops of potatoes and tomatoes, unstoppable cucumbers and courgettes and our biggest ever yields of pumpkin, squash and grapes. These were distributed free of charge to our local community pantry in Kincardine, and transformed by our team of kitchen volunteers into delicious dishes, served free of charge at our Toasty Tuesday and Friday community lunches for up to 30 people. They were shared with our partner groups, Fairway Fife for young adults with educational disabilities, Andy's Man Club for men in crisis, and Change Mental Health.

The field to fork collaboration between our garden and kitchen volunteers yielded our best results to date and we made significant headway in getting the food we grow and cook to those who need it most.

We hired a food coordinator and began a close collaboration with Fife Council to work with the 20 households most dependent on food banks. They joined us to learn to cook delicious, nutritious and affordable dishes, and make new friends for improved mental health and wellbeing. The project is called the 'Yum Club' and has made a significant impact in helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community feel the sense of agency and accomplishment which comes from being able to treat their friends and family to a tasty home-

GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

cooked meal. Our Yum Club members tell us these classes have given them something to look forward to each week, introduced them to supportive new friends, and brought a sense of fun in otherwise difficult times.

Our volunteers have played a crucial part in this new project by making every member feel not only very welcome but sharing a sense of ownership - that our beautiful garden and all its possibilities belongs to them.

We welcomed a whole new set of volunteers over the last year, including many who helped launch Grow West Fife's successful Repair Cafe - a team of dedicated seamsters, clothing, fabric, electrical, mechanical and bicycle repairers who hosted repair sessions in our garden kitchen and community centres in Culross, High Valleyfield, Oakley, Inverkeithing, Kincardine, and North Queensferry. They repaired record players, lawn mowers, teddy bears, children's toys, strimmers, power-washers, scooters, bikes, favourite items of clothing, lamps, clocks and mixers to help save people money and spare good, functional things from being dumped in landfill. Our 16 repairers and volunteer bakers hosted 12 repair cafe events and their repairs saved just under 6,000 kilos of CO2 - the equivalent of flying from Dunfermline to New York and back three times.

Our volunteers, whether repairing, growing, cooking or making things in our workshop DIY sessions, gave more than 7,000 hours of their precious time to help people in need throughout our West Fife communities.

In doing so, many of them also helped themselves by learning new skills, making new friends, and feeling the boost to their self-esteem that comes from playing a vital role in helping others. Many have spoken of the improvement in their own mental health and wellbeing from volunteering with us.

Many of these volunteers also played a key role in a number of infrastructure projects to make our garden a safer, more sustainable and comfortable place for all to visit and spend time in, including a new Wetland Cell off-grid waste treatment system, a wheelchair accessible toilet block, including a sliding barn door made by our workshop group, all funded by the Fife Rural Development Fund, the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and the Volunteer Support Fund. Volunteers repaired dilapidated brickwork, rotten roofs, and restored a vandalised outbuilding into a new office space, funded by Survivability Consultants. They installed a new peninsula kitchen donated by Ikea and a new wash hand basin to make our kitchen space safer, more practical and flexible. They also built a new tool workshop in one of our outhouses, with support from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, so we can make our sheds, raised beds etc for the garden.

Solar panels and batteries, funded by Fife Council's Ash Lagoon fund and the Crown Estate's fund for coastal communities, were installed to make our garden more energy self-sufficient. Outdoor lighting was installed to make the garden and workshops accessible in the winter evenings.

In November we bought an electric minibus/van with funding from the Fife Rural Development Fund, which will play a key role in making our garden more accessible to more people and our charity more self-reliant. The van will be fuelled for much of the year by electricity from our own solar panels and batteries.

Over the course of the last year.

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we filled our first full-time gardener post, which will be funded for two years by the Community Recovery Fund, administered by Fife Council.

The funding for this post was aimed at making our small charity more sustainable in the long-term so we can continue to help those most in need in our community. The Fife Rural Development Fund also supported the engagement of Community Enterprise to produce a consultancy report and business strategy for Grow West Fife's long-term future.

These are all considerable achievements for a tiny charity in 12 months, and all the more so because they were made in the face of extreme restrictions on access imposed by our landlord.

We hired a minibus with support from the Fife Rural Development Fund and volunteers ran a shuttle service to keep access open. We worked closely with Fife Council's access officer and community team to resolve these restrictions but the impact had a negative impact lasting several months. In the midst of these restrictions, our councillors, in particular Graeme Downie, now our Member of Parliament, secured a new bus stop at the West Lodge Gate which has made the garden more accessible for those using public transport.

These obstacles highlighted the need for Grow West Fife to take ownership of the garden to increase its potential and reduce the negative impact that can be inflicted by outside bodies with different interests.

Towards the end of the year, we started working with Community Enterprise, Fife Voluntary Action, the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS), local MSPs, MP and councillors to prepare a community buyout application to buy our garden. We are grateful to them all for their incredible support at a difficult time and hope to make progress with our application in the weeks ahead.

This application will change our organisational structure. Grow West Fife became a two-tier SCIO in Summer 2024 and has since become a community-controlled charity eligible to launch a community buyout out under the Scottish Government's Community Right to Buy legislation.

The outcome of this process will shape the year ahead at the garden, but there will be many other developments too - a new polytunnel, an automated irrigation system, and an electric vehicle charging point will be installed, along with new security fencing.

There will be further roof repairs on our outhouses, the new office will soon be ready to use and the garden's beds are being redesigned to maximise growing space.

Our Yum Club will be extended to welcome new members and, hopefully, its first-year pioneers will start growing their own food as well as cooking it.

We welcomed two new trustees to our board this year, [REDACTED] while saying goodbye to [REDACTED] who stood down after several years' service. We want to welcome [REDACTED] and send our deep gratitude to [REDACTED] for her contribution.

We also want to thank all our funders and donors for their incredible support over the last year:

The Volunteer Support Fund

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

The Crown Estate

Fife Council

The Fife Rural Development Fund

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The Community Recovery Fund

Survivability Consultants

Ikea Community Fund

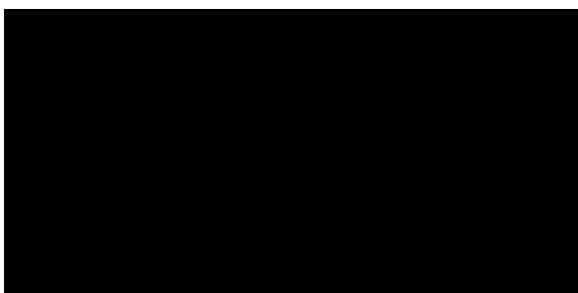
Coalfields Regeneration Trust

National Lottery Awards for All, and

All those who came to our lunches and repair cafe events and made donations.

We also want to thank Fife Voluntary Action, and in particular its capacity officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for their exceptional support.

Special thanks are due too to our local representatives across the political spectrum:



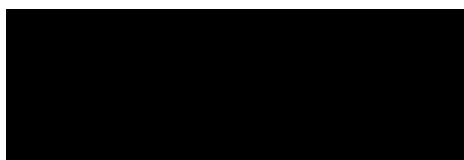
Most of all, we would like to thank our volunteer gardeners, cooks, repairers, trustees, tradesmen and DIYers, and our partner organisations - Fairway Fife, Andy's Man Club, and Change Mental Health - without whom Grow West Fife could not exist. Huge thanks to you all for the incredible work you do and the warm welcome you share to make Grow West Fife such a valued community resource.

Financial review

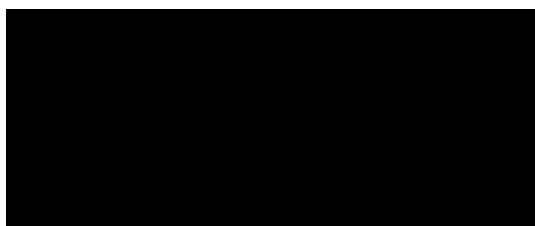
The results for the twelve months to 30 November 2024 showed a small surplus in unrestricted funds. Total reserves carried forward are £65,881.43.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



23 April 2025



23 April 2025

GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grow West Fife

I report on the accounts of the charity for the twelve months ended 30 November 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of regulation (10) (1) (d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44) (1) (c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the views given by the accounts.

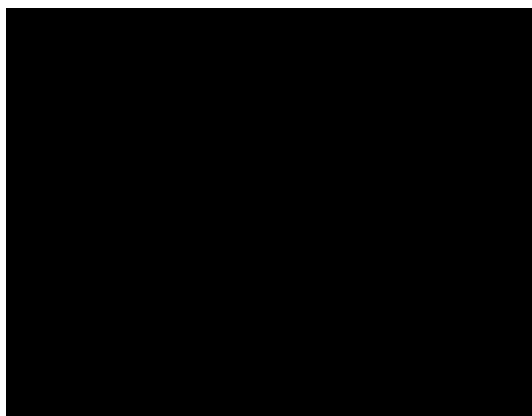
Independent Examiner's Qualified Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter came to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section (44) (1) (a) of the Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations; and,
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations

have not been met, or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



04 April 2025

GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the twelve months ended 30 November 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2023(£)
Receipts					
Donations	4	6,271.46		6271.46	4,971.68
Grants	5		110,234.00	110,234.00	110,390.00
Total Receipts		6,121.46	110,384.00	116,505.46	115,361.68
Payments					
Charitable activities		5,007.19	40,256.45	45,263.64	42,654.39
Fundraising costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00
Purchase of equipment		5,513.09	35,465.01	40,978.1	44,348.69
Administration		2,497.33	4,435.06	6,932.39	2,152.28
Total Payments		13,017.61	80,156.52	93,174.13	89,200.36
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(6,896.15)	30,227.48	23,331.33	26,161.32
Transfer between funds		0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(6,896.15)	30,227.48	23,331.33	26,161.32

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Statement of Balances for twelve months ended 30 November 2024

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2023(£)
Opening cash at bank	10,912.38	31,637.72	42,550.10	16,388.78
Surplus/Deficit for the year	(6,896.15)	30,227.48	23,331.33	26,161.32
Closing Cash at Bank and in hand	4,016.23	61,865.20	65,881.43	42,550.10

Bank and Cash Balances

Bank Account	65,881.43	42,550.10
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Other Assets

Garden Kitchen	0.00	19,912.92
Reed bed wastewater system	0.00	20,024.94
Solar panels & batteries	12,781.00	0.00
Van	17,848.00	
	30,629.00	39,937.86

Liabilities

None

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Notes to the accounts for the twelve months ended 30 November 2024

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity. During the year the charity received donations of £6,271.46.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. During the year the charity received restricted grants of £110,234.

3. Trustee remuneration, expenses and related party transactions

The charity's insurance policy includes Trustee Indemnity Insurance for all its trustees. No other remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the year. Travel expenses of £263 (2023:£ nil) were paid to one trustee in the year.

4. Donations Received

	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2023(£)
Cash donations	6,271.46	0.00	6,271.46	4,971.68
Total	6,271.46	0.00	6,271.46	4,971.68

5. Grants Received

	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2023(£)
Culross Development				(1,000)
Volunteer Support Fund		10,500	10,500	13,000
Fife Voluntary Action		17,900	17,900	28,000
Fife Council – Warm Welcome				4,900
Fife Council		81,834	81,834	22,500
Scottish Power				10,000
Crown Estate				30,000
Coalfield Regeneration Trust				2,990
Total	0	110,234	110,234	110,390

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6. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total period ended 30 November 2024(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2023(£)
IT	333.32	161.55	494.87	368.17
Garden repairs	0	300.00	300.00	1,922.97
Rents & leases	0	471.28	471.28	2,671.92
Insurance	0	987.73	987.73	1,184.03
Sundries	429.08	1,462.50	1891.58	1,041.25
Total	762.40	3,383.06	4,145.46	7,188.34

7. Governance Costs

Independent Examiner Fee £100 (2023: £100)

8 Transfers between funds

None