

STALLED SPACES Council awards more than £45,000 in grants

to regenerate areas throughout the city

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■ Councillor Archie Graham in Greyfriars Garden, in the Merchant City, with Michaela McCulloch, 10, from Wellshot Primary School, which has been involved with the Stalled Spaces programme. Picture: Martin Shields

By **EWAN FERGUS**

COMMUNITIES across Glasgow have been awarded cash grants to help kick-start regeneration on sites which are unused.

Glasgow City Council's Stalled Spaces project will see a host of projects given money to help develop projects which benefit the community.

It's in the same spirit as the Evening Times' celebrated Streets Ahead campaign, which has been hailed for breathing new life into communities across the city.

The announcement on Stalled Spaces grants was made as it was revealed the project has been awarded Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Legacy status.

Stalled Spaces will fall within the Green legacy

these – one of six themes which are part of the city's efforts to ensure all Glaswegians benefit from the Games' legacy.

The 20 new projects awarded a Community Support for Stalled Spaces grant were announced at an information sharing event at the City Chambers.

More than £45,000 in grants have been made. They included money for the restoration of a garden area next to the Alexander "Greek" Thomson's Sixty Steps, which connect Kelvinside Terrace to Garriochmill Road in the West End, and the creation of a sensory garden by Shettleston Development Group.

While Blochairn Housing Association hopes to turn their stalled site into a pop-up park and wild flower meadow, the Castlemilk Youth Complex intends to hold a "Cycle in Cinema" event.



The council has given local people the opportunity to change what was a disused piece of land into a vibrant green space

MARION BATE, Shettleston Community Growing Project

Councillor Archie Graham, Executive Member for the Commonwealth Games, said: "Glasgow is very good at being innovative and creative about how to engage with, listen to and improve the lives of those living in our city.

"This project is a shining

example of a Glasgow 2014 Legacy Project which gives locals the power to take over and transform their communities, bringing economic, environmental and social benefits to our city."

The Community Support for Stalled Spaces fund is a partnership between Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Housing Association (GHA).

GHA chairman Gordon Sloan said: "Stalled Spaces has led to some really imaginative projects.

"Communities across the city have already seen the benefit and I look forward to even more ideas which will get people involved to improve neighbourhoods."

Marion Bate, from the Shettleston Community Growing Project, said: "By making the site available, the council has given local

people the opportunity to change what was a derelict and disused piece of land into a vibrant green space, enjoyed by everyone in the area.

"All types of people come to the space now, and there is a real sense of pride in what has been achieved."

Kathleen Gray, a class teacher from Wellshot Primary, which was involved in the Food Miles project (an element of the Stalled Spaces programme that educates people of all ages about sustainable growing), said: "This provides a great way for children to learn about where food comes from and how to make choices about what to eat, as well as discovering the growing process.

"The children have learned about this process both at school and at home, all the way from planting a seed to cooking what they have grown themselves."

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STALLED SPACES AWARDS

- The Gael Gael Trust, Govan – £2243.
- Locavore Community Interest Company, Community Market Garden, Langside – £2450.
- Maryhill Integration Network, Community Garden, Maryhill/Kelvin – £2416.
- Greek Thomson Steps Preservation Trust Ltd, Restoration of garden area adjoining Greek Thomson Steps – £2500.
- Gorbals Healthy Living Network – £2500.
- Elderpark Housing Association, Govan, Raised Beds Growing Space to encourage healthy eating and social cohesion – £2500.
- Shettleston Development Group, Sensory Garden – £2500.
- Blochairn Housing Association, Springburn, pop-up park and wild flower meadow – £2500.
- Castlemilk Youth Complex – £2128.
- Friends of Pacitti Garden, Govan – £2468.
- Friends of Possilpark Greenspace, wild flower meadow – £1809.
- Friends of Possilpark Greenspace, various areas – butterfly area, bike track, Hillhead, Community Garden – £1850.
- Glasgow Film, two sites in different areas in Calton and Maryhill will be used for pop-up cinema screens – £1500.
- Ibrox Library's Over 60s and Mother & Toddlers Group – £2500.
- Partick Housing Association, wild flower meadow – £2500.
- Ruchill Community Centre, site improvement – £2500.
- Willowacre Trust, Calton, Community Garden – £1966.
- Food Fruition, Hillhead, Community Garden – £1850.
- Glasgow Film, two sites in different areas in Calton and Maryhill will be used for pop-up cinema screens – £1500.



OUR Streets Ahead campaign is also breathing new life into communities across the city. Whether it's organising local clean-ups or road safety campaigns, planting and weeding, turning gap sites into green spaces, or putting up hanging baskets in your street, we want to help.

With the support of our partners, Clean Glasgow, City Charitable Trust, Glasgow Housing Association, Scotrail and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, we can help turn local dreams into reality.

Get involved by calling 0141 302 6555 or e-mail streetsahead@heraldandtimes.co.uk