



Pride in our City

Portfolio 2013



DERRY
CITY COUNCIL



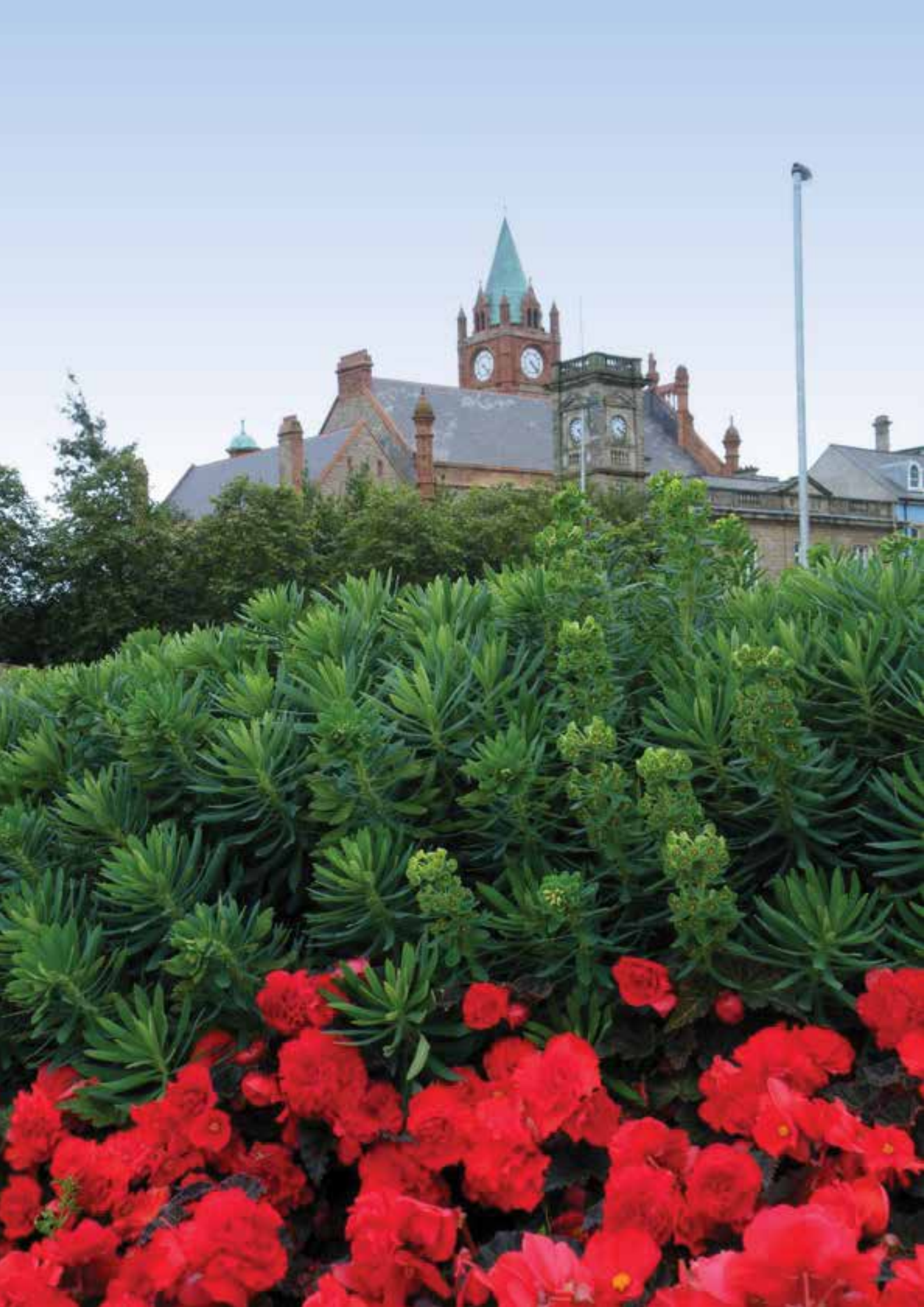
▶ 'The Pride In Our City campaign has been in existence now for more than 12 years and the delivery of its objectives has been proven on many occasions'.





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Introduction

This Pride In Our City portfolio has been primarily produced to inform you the judges of Britain in Bloom, but also as an informative document for the Ulster in Bloom, Pride of Place and the Best Kept Awards, and will list the ongoing improvements and workings in relation to horticulture, environmental and community involvement throughout the City.

The Pride In Our City campaign has been in existence now for more than 12 years and the delivery of its objectives has been proven on many occasions through the attainment of a range of awards from the competitions mentioned above. This portfolio will highlight those areas and items that shall not be visited on the day of judging and cover a period from late August 2012 to June 2013.





An area that was highlighted in previous judges feedback was in relation to information on the sustainability and funding of the Pride in Our City Campaign.

The sustainability of this campaign was secured with the approval by Council in 2006 of an annual fund of £20,000 to be solely used in relation to this campaign to further improve the three pillars of Horticultural Excellence, Environmental Responsibility, and Community Participation.

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In addition application has been successfully made annually to the local Department of Social Development in relation to the Pride In Our City Campaign and we are pleased to say that this year a sum of £50,000 has been secured for the campaign with an additional £30,400 awarded for the purchase of planters and trees to further enhance the riverside and 'Public Realm' areas during this year as the UK City of Culture 2013.

Another area of funding which has generated funding towards the improvement of the City's roundabouts has been the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme where local businesses have come forward and contributed to the landscaping and maintenance of roundabouts on the main arterial routes, raising this year a sum of £28,775.

Pride In Our City's aim in relation to the arterial routes is to create "hot spots" of colour at the main entrance routes to the city coupled with an enhanced maintenance regime to grassed areas which has been funded by the DRD Road Service and delivered by Council's Parks and Cemeteries Section.



- ▶ 'Roads Service is pleased to support the aims of The Pride In Our City Campaign by enhancing the appearance of the road network'.



Partners and Stakeholders

DRD Roads Service

Roads Service is pleased to support the aims of The Pride In Our City Campaign by enhancing the appearance of the road network in the area and ensure that maintenance is carried out to the standards laid down in our guidelines. In particular we have worked in conjunction with the Department for Social Development in developing the main “gateways” into the city and have recently completed the works to Queens Quay, Duke Street and Rossville Street. We will work with Derry City Council to ensure best use of greenspace is created by that scheme.



Queens Quay

North West Development Office

The Department for Social Development's (DSD) North West Development Office (NWDO) plays a central role in driving forward urban regeneration and community development in Derry and the wider North West. Through a range of funding programmes, and in partnership with regeneration partners in the private, community and voluntary sectors, and other Government Departments and Agencies, NWDO seeks to tackle social, economic and physical regeneration and to redress disadvantage in the city.

NWDO continues to work with local people and key stakeholders to create attractive and safe landscaped spaces that respect local character and encourage community pride.

NWDO has also made a very significant investment in a wide range of public realm improvement projects throughout the city in recent years – areas to benefit from these schemes include Newmarket Street, Guildhall Square/ Waterloo Place, Queens Quay, Castle Street, Clarendon Street, Foyle Street, Spencer Road and Duke Street. The creation of the Foyle Street urban park and the provision of high quality precinct planters and hanging baskets throughout the city centre further complements this work.

As a key partner, NWDO continues to play a full role in supporting and funding initiatives taken forward by Derry City Council that promote the business objectives of both organisations. Examples of these initiatives are support for the Britain in Bloom, Ulster in Bloom, Pride of Place, and Pride in our City projects, facilitation of additional tree planting on the arterial routes into the City, landscaping of roundabouts and the supply of precinct planters for use in and around the city.





ILEX

Ilex is the urban regeneration company for Derry~Londonderry. It is sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), to create and promote the co-ordinated regeneration of the Derry City Council area and to secure the economic, social and physical regeneration of Ebrington, the 26 acre former military site connected to the city by the iconic and multi-award winning Peace Bridge.

Ebrington is currently being redeveloped for cultural, recreational, tourism, hospitality and residential use. Importantly, the prestigious Turner Prize 2013 will be hosted in two former barracks buildings which are at an advanced stage of regeneration. An underground car park is also under way which will bring additional areas of Ebrington back into use and provide connections to the city's extensive cycle network.

Considerable progress has been made to Ebrington Square which is now the largest public space in the city. It has been developed to complement the iconic Peace Bridge and to host a range of cultural and recreational activities. Already, the square has hosted key events such as the Peace One Day concert, the Clipper concerts 2012 and Radio 1's Big Weekend, and many more large scale events are planned for the future.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The Housing Executive is Northern Ireland's strategic regional housing authority. Their aim is to provide everyone with the opportunity to access decent, affordable housing services, develop strategies to influence the wider housing market and work with others to foster urban and rural renewal and contribute to improved health and social well being.

City Centre Initiative

City Centre Initiative is the dedicated city centre management company for Derry~Londonderry, integral to the work undertaken by the organisation are projects such as the Pride in Our City campaign, which, continues to make a very positive contribution to the city centre and indeed the city as a whole. The planning and partnership working required for such a competition is ongoing throughout the year with strong working relationships forged and maintained. Never have projects such as Pride in Our City been more important especially since the city is enjoying its City of Culture year celebrations.

The Rangers project has benefited many organisations within the city, with the Rangers continually progressing and growing their scope and skills, indeed they are now recognised on the street by both local shoppers and tourists alike with their wealth of information and welcome help if required. They are also a first line reporting mechanism for a quick response from the relevant organisations on such issues as graffiti and damage to public property.

The Conservation Volunteers

The Conservation Volunteers are an active partner with Derry City Council in the Pride in Our City campaign in delivering environmental improvement projects and events.

A highlight this year has been winning the Team Challenge Silver Medal at Gardenshow Ireland with their Pride In Our City entry 'Let the Music Flow'.



The concept of the garden was to give a flavour of the feel good factor in the city during the UK City of Culture year. The music notes on the fence are the first few notes of Danny Boy, the music tree and notes are made from oak from Gransha Wood and the piano key path represents the music flowing from the River Foyle. The stone used marks the 400th anniversary of the city's walls. Ivan Black, Conservation Project Development Officer credits the gardens success to the hard work and dedication of the team.

Sow and Grow

Sow & Grow Horticultural Unit based in Gransha Park continues to grow from strength to strength working closely alongside Derry City Council this year growing on a selection of herbs which will benefit community initiatives providing large herb planters for use in various areas throughout the Derry City Council district.



Left to right – Donal Kelly (Senior Horticulturist), Trainees: Chris Sweeney, Marcus Kitson, Jackie Gilmore and Jimmy Sweeney.



Roundabouts Sponsorship Scheme

Current Roundabouts Sponsors contributing to a better civic environment include:





Floral Displays

Derry City Council and its partners recognise the valuable contribution that floral displays make in enhancing our civic environment through the provision of hanging baskets, precinct planters, bedding displays and bulb planting within our parks, cemeteries, and roundabouts. In this past year Council has planted:

- 67,700 spring bedding plants,
- 24,000 additional daffodil bulbs, and
- 82,000 summer bedding plants

This summer Council will also display 588 hanging baskets, 119 wall/pole baskets, 325 barrier planters, 40 precinct planters, 9 tree surrounds, and 6 half barrel displays across the city. These figures include 100 hanging baskets, 6 precinct planters, and 130 barrier planters newly purchased this year through welcome funding from the North West Development Office. Additionally a further 6 precinct planters and 18 wall baskets will also be on display at 6 community centre locations as part of our Good Relations project.

Further planting in and around the city this year has also included:

- 674 Trees
- 2,900 whips
- 11,661 Shrubs
- 5,000 bedding plants
- 2,093 Perennials
- 1,100 Bulbs
- 5,760 Grasses
- 9,600 M2 of Wild Flora planting



Calendar of Activities

July 2012

Clipper Festival - environmental education marquee located along the Quay during the maritime festival, with a range of exhibitors to including, DOE Water Management Unit; The Conservation Volunteers; Queen's University Belfast's Controlling Invasive Species & Restoring Biodiversity; NI Bat Group; NW Red Squirrel Group; Playtrail; Loughs Agency; DOE Natural Heritage; RSPB; Derry City Council's Biodiversity & Recycling; and Faughan Valley Landscape Partnership. (DCC Bio).



August 2012

River Discovery Day (Loughs Agency, DCC Bio, & Faughan Valley Landscape Partnership - FVLP)



Drumahoe - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Strathfoyle & Lisahally - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Shantallow - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Creggan (Bligh's Lane) - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

The Gasyard Feile at The Gasyard Park (community festival)

September 2012

DCC and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) pilot study to control unregistered green space with Japanese knotweed. Council commenced the control of the site in September 2012 and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive will continue to control the affected area in 2013 & 2014. (DCC Bio & NIHE)

Red Squirrel Day (DCC Bio & FVLP)



The North West Red Squirrel Group launched www.nwredsquirrel.org website to raise awareness of the Group, provide information on red squirrels, record sightings and provide advice on how to help conserve red squirrels. (DCC Bio).

October 2012

Planted 500 m of species rich hedgerows at Woodburn Park, Bay Road Park LNR, Loughs Agency and eight local schools. (DCC Bio)

Bat detecting in Gransha Wood (FVLP & DCC Bio)

Citywide Daffodil Planting (through NIHE Junior Wardens Scheme in partnership with Gareth Austin) involving various schools and groups including:

Groarty Primary School, Troy College, Hope @ The Playtrail, Maybrook Adult Learning Centre, St Patrick's Primary School, Lenamore Primary School, St Paul's Primary School, Steelstown Primary School, Cathedral Youth Club, U3A, Drumahoe YMCA.



November 2012

The first phased development of the City Cemetery was completed which created new burial grounds, a landscaped garden, with 1 km of species rich hedgerows. (DCC)

December 2012

In the Dead of Winter – Let it snow !

January 2011

Caw football pitch is awarded protected status as a 'Field in Trust' as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge (DCC & Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group)

Wildlife Action, weekend of events held at Strathfoyle incorporating Tree planting and Adopt-a-Stream (FVLP)

February 2011

Tree planting events at Drumahoe Primary School and the Beechill Hotel (FVLP)

World Wetland Day event at Bay Road Park Local Nature Reserve (DCC Bio)

Junior Clean Up of Fountain Estate (Fountain PS with Community Gardener Gareth Austin) March



March 2011

Artists Gardens 2013 – Final preparations get under way for installing the Artists Garden at the Void Gallery (City of Culture 2013 & The Void)

'With intention to reclaim disused or forgotten parts of Derry/Londonderry and create spaces which will be catalysts for reflection, imagination and innovation. The works will be gardens in the widest sense of the word, artistic re-imagining of the garden concept.

Derry/Londonderry has a proud artistic heritage which this project will reinforce. It will indicate the potential of public art to be more than merely something to be looked at. The works rather will be experienced and will change over time reflecting how the city and its people change. Artworks tend to be static whereas the environments will change over time.'

April 2011

Dawn Chorus at Creggan Country Park (DCC Bio)

Bay Road Park - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Preparations for Team Challenge entry in Gardenshow Ireland 2013 (The Conservation volunteers - TCV)

North West Wildlife Photography Talk (FVLP)

Flora and Fauna Tour of the City Walls (Community Gardner - Gareth Austin) May





Country Estate Forage Day at Ashbrooke House (FVLP)

May 2011

Dawn Chorus at Gransha Wood (DCC Bio & FVLP)



Winner of the Silver Medal for Team Challenge at the Gardenshow Ireland 2013 (TCV)

Bumblebee course (FVLP)

'City of Horti-Culture !' floral display planters project with 10 local schools (DCC)

Gallagh - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Strathfoyle - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Crawford Square - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Earhart Festival - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

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2013 Amelia Earhart Festival at Ballyarnet Country Park (Greater Shantallow Community Arts)

a big stage, a live radio roadshow, helicopter rides, a teddybear's picnic, marching bands, amusements and much much more at the community festival located at the landing site of renowned Amelia Earhart. The first woman to achieve a solo flight across the Atlantic in 1932.



Citywide planting program through NIHE Junior Wardens Scheme:

- Long Tower PS at school grounds
- Holy Child PS at Creggan Country Park
- St Paul's PS in Galliagh



Good Relations cross community workshops at New Horizons Ashbrook Nursery (DCC)

During May and June children from 6 local community groups and schools worked together at New Horizons Ashbrook Nurseries in preparing and planting up flower planters and hanging baskets that will go on display in their local communities during the summer months. This environmental based initiative serves a way of engaging children to work together on a cross community basis, and to see the benefits that this can bring to their own communities.



The children can be proud of showing off the fruits of their shared labour and their local communities can enjoy the benefits of these colourful displays during the summer, and recognise with civic and community pride the hard work and achievement of these budding young local gardeners. Groups who worked together in this year's



Groups who worked together in this year's project included::

New Buildings Community Association

Shantallow Community Residents Association, with Steelstown PS

The Gasyard Centre

Caw Nelson Drive Action Group, with Caw Youth Club

Leafair Community Association

The Cathedral Youth Club

June 2011

Further Citywide planting program through NIHE Junior Wardens Scheme:

- Sacred Heart PS at Hollymount Estate
- Greenhaw PS at Carnhill Estate
- Fountain PS at Fountain Estate
- Ebrington PS at Clooney Estate
- Model PS at Brooke Park



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Launch of Pride In Our City 2013 with Mayor and local school pupils presenting their 'City of Horti-Culture !' floral display planters.



Carnivale of Colours festival at St Columb's Park

St Columbs' Park is transformed into a playground for all the family. With two Big Tops bursting at the seams with fun, while mysterious secrets of giant proportions will be hiding in the trees throughout the park. Carnivale of Colours in it's sixth year has evolved from a concept delivered by In Your Space through its work in communities across the region delivering Circus Skills to young people. The two day grand picnic is a family friendly, circus orientated event with entertainers, live acts and music.



Ubuntu Global Festival at St Columb's Park – DCC Good Relations

The Ubuntu Global Village in the heart of the park was buzzing with cooking demonstrations, arts and craft cultural workshops, music and dance from across diverse continents and countries. The day included the wonderful Ubuntu carnival procession around the park. Polish, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and Caribbean communities plus many more in this colourful festival. Currynierin - Community



Clean Ups (DCC)

Shantallow / Larkhill, Tara Pk, Daisy Hill - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Shantallow / Old School Lane - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Carnhill - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Bloomfield Pk, Altcar Pk, Dundrean Pk - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Moss Pk / Fergleen Pk - Community Clean Ups (DCC)

Brookdale / Fern Pk - Community Clean Ups (DCC)



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