

**Beautiful Scotland Annual Seminar  
Macdonald Aviemore Highland Resort, 2.11.07  
Question and Answer session notes**

Q1. What can we do about problems with private land?

A: Demonstrate to the judges what you have done to try and solve the problem.

Q2: Do we need to get permission to take photographs of children?

A: Yes, parents should sign a consent form. Local Primary School should also be able to identify children those children that have not had permission.

Q3: Is it a requirement to involve children on the judging tour? It can be difficult to find children available during the school holidays.

A: It is not essential for the judges to meet the children. If it has not been possible for any children to be part of the judging tour, groups should detail their work with local children in their portfolio.

At this point Allan Cairnduff was invited to talk briefly about the Adopt a Street campaign in Stonehaven. In five estates on the edge of the town, the Community Council has introduced an Adopt a Street campaign where the locals agree to carry out regular clean ups. Volunteers are given high visibility vests, pickers and gloves, and the rubbish collected is put in their own domestic wheeled bins for collection as normal. This scheme now covers 60 streets in the town.

Q4: It is suggested that children can be more involved in the campaign by being brought to this annual seminar event.

Q5: Littering by pupils at lunchtime causes a problem in areas where there are High Schools. Is it possible for judges to avoid judging these entrants between 12 noon and 1.30pm?

A: This suggestion was taken on board and will be discussed with judges at the Judges' Training Day in March.

Q6. What level of insurance cover is available to groups?

A: The RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) cover is £5million (public liability).

Q7: How can biodiversity be introduced in cemeteries and churchyards if communities are split in their opinion? Can guidance be produced?

A: Agreed that guidance could be produced to help local authorities work with communities on this area in order to ensure the community agrees and is supportive of new systems of management of these areas. It is also recommended to introduce changes incrementally, not all at once. Peter Sandwell of Dundee City Council explained that in Dundee the height of grass cutting has been raised, and areas of wildflowers have been introduced. He added that in Broughty Ferry a new project will involve local residents taking over the management of these areas themselves.

Q8: In Uddingston, First ScotRail would not permit barrels on the platform unless they were secured onto the concrete. How did North Berwick deal with this?

A: Peter Atkins explained that in North Berwick the barrels are just off the platform. He recommended placing dense bricks in the bottom of the barrel which makes them immovable. This had not been accepted in Uddingston, therefore there are inconsistencies in ScotRail policy.