

Event Report

An Introduction to Food Growing Strategies Victoria Quay, 22nd September, 2016

Contents

1. – Summary
2. – Opening Session
3. – Notes from workshops:
 - 3.1. - Identifying Land
 - 3.2. – Increasing Provision
 - 3.3. – Working in areas of socio-economic disadvantage
4. – Question Board
5. – Key points going forward

Appendices:

- A – Programme
- B – Attendee List
- C – Summary of Evaluation Forms

1. Summary

The aim of this event was to explore the details of Section 119, Part 9 of the Community Empowerment Act, and the implications of the duty it places on Local Authorities to prepare a Food Growing Strategy within 2 years of the section coming into force. A food growing strategy will identify land that could be used for allotments or community growing. It should also describe how the local authority intends to increase the provision of allotments and community growing, especially in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.

This report summarises the content of the day, and draws out questions, comments and resources to contribute to the guidance notes for Food Growing Strategies. People attending the event were positive about Food Growing Strategies and the impact that they would have, however they also highlighted a need for clear guidance, especially in times when resources in local authorities are stretched. Partnership working and building links was a major theme throughout the day, and having accessible and clear evidence of why allotments and community food growing should be supported was seen as useful to helping develop these ways of working.

This event was organised by the [Grow Your Own Working Group](#), with particular thanks to:

[Central Scotland Green Network Trust](#)
[Community Land Advisory Service \(Scotland\)](#)
[Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust](#)
[Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens](#)
[Glasgow Allotments Forum](#)
[Granton Community Gardeners](#)
[greenspace scotland](#)
[Keep Scotland Beautiful](#)
[Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society](#)
and, Scottish Government.

2. Opening Session

Opening presentations showed the scope of options available for allotments and community growing – including growing on vacant and derelict land, temporary sites, and using land available from public bodies such as the NHS. They also explored how allotments and community growing tie into several different areas of local and national policy. These presentations were given by [Charlie Powell, Director of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens](#), and [Julie Procter, Chief Executive of greenspace scotland](#) and are available to download by clicking on the links above.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham, gave a key note speech for the event. She highlighted links between the Food Growing Strategy, the Good Food Nation, Open Space Strategies and several different funding streams being delivered by the government. The Scottish Government has set up a tripartite group to monitor the progress of implementing Part 9. This group is accountable to the Cabinet Secretary, and consists of Scottish Government, local authorities and the Scottish Allotments and Garden Society. Please click on the links to download a full transcript of the [speech](#) and [Questions and Answers](#).

Slide 1:

Policy connections:

recipe for success ■ good food nation ■
let's make Scotland more active ■ good
places, better health ■ mental health
strategy ■ curriculum for excellence ■
skills for scotland ■ scottish planning
policy ■ national planning framework ■
vacant & derelict land ■ achieving a
sustainable future: regeneration
strategy ■ community empowerment ■
scotland's biodiversity: route map to 2020
climate change ■ zero waste plan ■
active travel ■ heritage ■ art and culture

Slide 2:

Our Urban Croft, South Seeds, Glasgow



Workshop 1

Identifying land: how to assess how much land is available, what is needed and where?

The aim of this workshop was to explore options for identifying land, and assessing how much land is available for allotments and community growing. It explored ways of assessing demand for allotments and community gardens so that supply can be better matched with demand.

Julie Procter (greenspace Scotland) and John Glover (Community Land Advisory Service) gave short [presentations](#) to open the workshop.

Land

1. Land can be identified by communities, but can be difficult to find out who owns it. Can the Land Registry of Scotland be helpful for identifying land – it can be quite expensive and there is not complete coverage at present, are there plans to improve this? **John Glover was able to update the group on this, and did so during his presentation at the beginning in sessions 2 and 3:** there is an aim to have all land on the map-based land register by 2024, with an interim target of registering all public sector land by 2019. However, it is only at 30% now and it will be difficult to hit that target. However, as more land is put on the map-based register, it will be significantly cheaper and easier to identify land ownership.
2. How do you prioritise land when there are so many competing land uses and space is at a premium? This is particularly problematic for urban Local Authorities. Some rural Local Authorities have the opposite problem – they can identify land, but don't know if there's the need or demand for food growing spaces, or what type of growing is appropriate. It really has to be fit for purpose – the right growing space in the right area, or it's just a box ticking exercise.
3. Will there be guidance on growing spaces that are not allotments? Not being allotment-centric was raised a couple of times, along with questions over more innovative growing spaces.
4. Soils – looking after soils is key to sustainable growing. Will this be addressed/recognised within Food Growing Strategies?
5. What is an allotment?! More is needed than just the definition in the Act – for example, does water need to be provided, should a site be fenced etc? As with point 6, some LAs are likely to do the bare minimum to adhere to the Act, which could result in substandard sites, unhappy growers, disenchantment etc. Therefore, there needs to be guidance on the expectations of what an LA will provide when creating an allotment or growing site. This could also cover what support LAs can give, e.g the cost of a land search to an LA is minimal but potentially prohibitive to a community group, so LA could give extra support by covering things like that.
6. What does the Act actually mean – should sites be identified and then held until there is demand, or is there an expectation for sites to be “created” and hoping that this will galvanise interest?
7. Some would welcome advice, ideas or experiences of dealing with informal sites – are there options for devolved management, what good models for this are out there?
8. Can there be flexibility in using existing assets – for example, some LAs have regional waiting lists, which could be opened up if there is available land in a different region, or even perhaps across LA boundaries?

General

1. Is the guidance likely to include a pro-forma or template for Food Growing Strategies? Are there any plans for online template, the creation of an online network or discussion forums to facilitate LA staff being able to bounce ideas off each other? Is there a role for the

Improvement Service in this (**Note:** several members of LA staff asked who the Improvement Service were – clearly not everyone has heard of them nor take advantage of the support they can give). There was also a suggestion for SG F&D staff to talk to Biodiversity Colleagues, as there are already templates and reports put together for the Biodiversity Duty that LAs have to adhere to, so there might be things that cross over.

Information sharing was raised several times in all the workshop sessions, highlighting the need for some kind of process for LAs to share info, experiences, ask for advice etc both between each other, and between different departments.

2. There were some questions about what is actually included within a Food Growing Strategy – for example, private allotments are not, but are council owned but leased out allotments? Some LAs are likely to push for the bare legal minimum, so they guidance must be as detailed as possible so that it isn't open to "lazy" interpretation.
3. Will LAs be hit with targets (e.g. number of sites, area of land etc)?
4. Will there be guidance on growing spaces that are not allotments? Not being allotment-centric was raised a couple of times, along with questions over more innovative growing spaces such as road verges and roundabouts.
5. What are the aims, aspirations and vision for Food Growing Strategies? Why are we growing, what's happening with the produce, and therefore what types of growing spaces are needed and where?
6. Will the purpose of the Strategy be to only identify land that could be used for allotments/community growing and describe how local authorities intends to increase this provision or is there scope to include an action programme for specific growing projects on sites identified or provision of facilities at existing allotment sites, for example?
7. Growing at Scale – how does this get addressed within Food Growing Strategies so that more people can access food that is grown locally even if they don't want to grow it themselves?

Another workshop highlighted the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, SAGE (Sow and Grow Everywhere) project, which looked at different types of growing across an urban to rural landscape

Useful resources:

- Guide for Growing on Land which may be Contaminated - <http://www.growyourownscotland.info/wp-content/uploads/images/Guide-for-growing-on-contaminated-land.pdf>
- Guide for Landowners – Community Land Advisory Service - <http://sc.communitylandadvice.org.uk/en/sc/resouce/landowners-guide-landowners>
- Allotments Design Guide – <http://www.sags.org.uk/docs/ScotlandAllotmentDesignGuide.pdf>
- Our Growing Community: <http://greenspacescotland.org.uk/our-growing-community.aspx>
- How to find out who owns the Land in Scotland <http://sc.communitylandadvice.org.uk/en/resource/how-find-out-who-owns-land-scotland>

Workshop 2

Increasing provision: Multiagency approaches and interdepartmental working. Options for financing.

The aim of this workshop was to look at ways in which local authorities can increase provision of allotments and community growing. Working across departments as well as in partnership with other organisations can help to maximise resources and expertise. This workshop also looked at different financing options to help increase provision of allotments and community growing spaces, and highlight how partnership work can increase access to financing options.

Presentations from Karen Davidson (Growing Together) on income generation for funded projects and Peter Duncan re internal collaboration within local authorities.

Key points that emerged in each workshop discussion are:

- The importance of support from elected members as well as the local community
- Scoping exercises to map ownership of the land in the local authority
- In the current context of limited and competing resources conflict for land/finance can arise e.g. allotments are supported but not community growing spaces

Activity

Participants were asked to discuss and note down:

Which agencies or organisations should be involved in increasing provision and why? What would be drivers for their participation?

Organisation/Agency	Driver
Internal Local Authority – procurement, education, social work, councillors, Executive committee, catering, sustainability team, education, Community Learning and Development in councils, Community Planning officers, Environmental health, Fairness Commission, Housing services. Land services, ground services, estates, property services. Legal dept of Local Authority. Parks & greenspace – community parks officers. Planning – biodiversity, open space, LDP, urban design, neighbourhood services, Edinburgh Living Landscape. Roads and Transport	Training, health and wellbeing, statutory undertakings, community enterprise, links to the wider strategic framework, Sustainable and Environmental policy, capital delivery and then activity phase. Mentoring. Healthy living. Increase physical activity, educational attainment. Advice on selling. RSLs landlords. Use produce within local systems i.e. schools, hospitals. To identify land issues. Open space management. Apprenticeships. Invasive weeds. Contamination. PPP and PPI contracts. Master and local plans. Accessibility
'Land holders' within the council	
<u>Neighbouring authorities</u>	Cross boundary links
<u>External to Local Authority</u> – health, third sector, leisure, SNH, SEPA RSCs Community interest groups e.g. in bloom	Sustainable Economy, planning concerns,
<u>Third Sector</u> – Braehead Community garden, Stirling, Nourish, Greenspace trust, edible estates, housing association, South Seeds, Aberdeen Multi-cultural centre, Allotment Associations, Community Gardens, Food Banks, Community councils/trusts, FEL/KSB, Development Trusts, Cemvo Scotland, Fraefife, Glasgow Local Food Network, Glasgow Allotment Forum, East Ate, Glasgow food Policy Partnership, Restaurants group, Slow Food	Use local produce. communal areas, individual plots. Different levels of membership – social and growing. Ethnic Minority voice/inclusion. Shared priorities of policy. Provision of training and skills. Social economy. Provide local community knowledge and involvement.

Movement, churches, permaculture, urban foragers, residents association, TCV, Caledonian woodlands, Dunedin CANmore Youth Group.	
<u>Commercial and Private sector.</u> Business Improvement Districts, Private developers. Supermarkets. Farmers and market gardeners, those growing at scale, Community supported agriculture. Food Co-ops. Community Enterprise groups. Community Interest company. Landowners – Scottish Enterprise, FCS, Local Estates. Trading standards	Good PR. Public open space/amenity/play space is requirement. Food waste part of strategy. Mentor, support and supply. Work with Local authority to help shape local provision and access to growing spaces. Locally produced veg and fruit has a marketable value today. Skills development. Future community resilience. Advice on selling
<u>Health & Wellbeing</u> NHS – health improvement officers, estates. Care homes, dieticians, Green Health Partnership Dundee	Measuring outcomes. Mental and physical health. nutrition. Health improvement fund for growing projects.
<u>Education and Learning</u> Schools – QIOs, facilities mgmt., PPI schools, Eco-Schools Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Forest Schools, Scouts. Local colleges. Champions for new initiatives re contaminated land	Whole school approach. Shared use of school grounds. Apprenticeships/Lifelong Learning/ recognised qualifications. Mentoring
<u>Community Planning Partners</u>	

Further Questions:

1. What are the links to Sustainable Cities and how do Food Growing Strategies contribute to them (and vice versa)?
2. The NHS – only one representative from the NHS was at this event (and asked this question) – how can we engage across the Health Board areas as some staff are keen whilst others are unavailable or unable to get involved. Who should Food Growing Strategy staff target, and are those staff roles found in each Health Board area?
3. Engagement with other LA departments is likely to be tricky – is there any advice on that? Different depts within LAs have been tasked with producing the Food Growing Strategies (e.g. for some its planning, others it's environment/sustainability, communities, health). Not all departments realise that they have a role or can contribute to the delivery of Food Growing Strategies
4. Planners – how can they be involved, and how are they in other areas? This delegate was interested in hearing about experience from other LAs, for example, in East Renfrew, they have occasionally been able to include a stipulation for food growing areas to be provided in masterplans, but have no evidence that this is wanted or used by eventual residents, particularly when compared with other land uses. Has

Useful resources

- SROIs for community growing projects <http://greenspacescotland.org.uk/sroi.aspx> & <http://www.socialvalueuk.org/app/uploads/2016/03/GORGIE%20CITY%20FARM%20SROI%20Assured.pdf>, and <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/resources/social-return-investment-sroi-impact-study-gorgie-city-farm>
- David Buck report: [Gardens and Health](#)
- Funding packages available: Green infrastructure Fund, CCF (through ideas bank would be available to Local Authorities), CSGN development fund

Workshop 3

Areas of Socio-economic disadvantage

The aim of this workshop was to look at increasing provision specifically in areas of socio-economic disadvantage. With new SIMD statistics available in 2016, identifying areas of socio-economic disadvantage is available. However, understanding what works is a more complex matter. This workshop highlighted examples of allotments and community growing in disadvantaged areas, and created space for discussing community development approaches.

Glasgow Allotment Forum – Linda Pike

Linda Pike gave a summary of barriers to community and allotment growing that may be experienced by people living in areas of socio-economic deprivation:

- There is a perception from the outside that people in areas of deprivation do not want allotments, as they do not make as much noise about it;
- People living in areas of deprivation usually have priorities other than allotments, such as housing, health, transport, schooling. These take up a lot of energy. Having allotments is seen as aspirational;
- People in these areas may find it difficult to attend meetings and consultations. They may not be as comfortable or familiar with the language and jargon used in these meetings;
- Community groups in more affluent areas are more likely to include people from professions such as finance, teaching and local government, who can “make things happen” more easily;
- There is a perception within communities in areas of deprivation that “we cannot do this”. People often do not see the strengths within themselves, and need to know that they often already have the necessary skills;
- Local authorities have a reputation of ignoring local people’s wishes;
- Areas of deprivation are often in former industrial areas where there are issues with land contamination. There is a misconception that growing has to occur directly in the existing soil; it is possible to grow in raised beds and containers to avoid growing in contaminated soil, although this is different to a conventional allotment where crops are grown directly in the soil.
- Poor health – physical, mental and social – can hold people back. Without access to community growing or allotment plots, people can miss out on the benefits of this activity, and find themselves in a vicious circle;
- Poor transport links are also often an issue, with no access to gardens/plots within walking distance.

Granton Community Gardeners (GCG) – Tom Kirby

- Summary of the development of the project:
- City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)-owned land and housing built in the 1930s;
- Project initiated in 2010 following an informal conversation between local residents about unused street corner plots;
- Doorstep consultation took place with residents. General response was that creating a community garden was a good idea, but few were reluctant to get involved due to concerns about vandalism;
- An informal gardening event was planned at one of the street corner plots. This was attended by 30 people;
- Veg and flowers were planted on this site. A second plot was then started; 7 plots now under cultivation + a community orchard, totalling 1.5 acres;
- CEC were initially concerned about complaints from local residents. CEC wrote a “Letter of Comfort” for the group to acknowledge the use of their land. This did not constitute a lease, as the group were not formally constituted;

- CEC attempted to charge a rental fee, but this was dropped after opposition from the group;
- The group still have no formal lease, but have secured funding from CEC via Local Neighbourhood Partnership grants;
- CEC also attempted to create another community garden in the area, making a capital investment of £100k into sheds, tools, fencing, etc. There was little buy-in from the community for this project initially, although one site is being used by local residents;
- 12 residents are on the committee of GCG. 2 gardening sessions take place each week, attended by between 3-25 people.

Comments/questions from attendees:

Local Authorities

- Local Authorities are complex organisations – identifying the appropriate/best person to deal with is not always straightforward;
- Returning the land to its original state in a situation such as the one at GCG is not likely to be costly for the Local Authority;
- Local Authorities have to assume all land is contaminated, and surveys must be carried out. There is a minimum cost of £350 for this; Some Local Authorities provide information about contaminated land to Central government; Local Authorities can find it difficult to identify and contact community groups who may be interested in/benefit from gardening in areas of deprivation;
- Local Authorities must not expect the community to come to them when conducting consultations;
- It is important to value opinions. People must not feel dismissed;
- Local Authorities often struggle to find the resources to pay staff to attend evening consultations;
- One Local Authority paid local people to conduct consultations rather than staff;
- Default position of Local Authorities should be to help communities when help is requested;
- Community growing saves resources for Local Authorities;
- Making plots within walking distance can be difficult.

General

- Approaching local elected representatives (MPs, MSPs, Councillors) for support is usually constructive, especially where there are “good news” stories and photo opportunities. This can offer some form of insurance policy against local authority intransigence or reluctance;
- Community groups need to be persistent and demonstrate their sustainability. There is considerable demand on Local Authority staff from numerous interest groups;
- Constituted groups with bank accounts are more likely to be taken seriously;
- Communities in areas of deprivation are more likely to be deterred by administration, and by delays in getting projects up and running;
- Rules for keeping livestock are different for community gardens and allotments. GCG do not currently keep livestock on street corner plots;
- Vandalism was a concern for GCG at the beginning, and some decisions were made with this in mind (e.g. sheds made of metal rather than wood). There have only been minor incidents to date, and the group try to tidy up any damage immediately. All plots are overlooked by residents;
- Traditional routes of contact and consultation, and social media, may not work in these areas. One-to-one contact is better;
- Many members of the community may not be connected to anyone else;

How do we involve communities?

1. Long term management - ongoing support, funding, staff capacity etc to help community groups with the ongoing management of new sites set up under the Food Growing Strategy. This is a recognition that the number of local groups will increase as more are set up to manage/use the new food growing sites, and will need ongoing support, probably quite intensively to begin with.
2. How do Local Authorities manage expectations when consulting with communities? Having a call for sites, or “fife experience” type meetings will raise expectations that a growing space will be provided, but there will need to be at least some timeline or prioritisation on which sites get done first. There may also be reasons why some sites can’t go ahead.... Session 2 revealed problems over NIMBY-ism and objections to perceived problems with allotment sites by potential neighbours during the planning permission stage (does this also apply to non-allotment sites?). Changing perceptions about what an allotment is and its impact on an area can be very difficult. Starting with smaller scale projects such as local clean ups, or hanging baskets etc can provide an opportunity for initial conversations.
3. Some community group representatives said that they were keen for community involvement right from the start of the Food Growing Strategy process, not just for specific sites, as they can help with the delivery of the Food Growing Strategy in general. They also might know of local issues or opportunities that Local Authority staff don’t. They might also be able to help with some of the management of expectations.
4. Forth Environment Link have been doing work for CATCA (Communities along the Carron), using the “Our Growing Communities” resources with great success. They are engaging with lots of people and are sharing the results with Falkirk Council too.
5. How do we reach people who want to do more informal food growing, but perhaps don’t know it? What about using informal food growing as a social tool rather than just a food production one – for example, ethnic minority groups that have moved away from food growing since coming to the UK. Some see allotments as a drain or a commitment/responsibility and want the social side of food growing to help integrate into a new society. Space not just to grow food, but also as a person or community.
6. Schools are key to engaging folk within disadvantaged areas, as (almost) all children go to schools! Schools often have some kind of grounds or land available for at least container growing, and there are options within the curriculum for food growing. Are schools part of the Food Growing Strategy – they should be! Advice on how this could fit would be helpful – many Local Authorities already engage with schools informally, but have no corporate strategy for it.

Useful Resources

- National Standards for Community Engagement <http://www.voicescotland.org.uk/>
- SIMD data – <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>
- Granton Community Gardeners case study <http://www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk/community-based-activity/case-studies/granton-community-gardeners/>

4. Question board

During the event people were invited to give questions and comments on the 3 following questions:

What do you already do that is/could be part of a food growing strategy?

- Co-ordinate the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum (since 2009)
- Establish community gardens in deprived areas and facilitate community takeover of local land for growing
- Extending existing allotment provision
- Existing allotment provision
- Edible borders
- Orchards
- Incorporating raised beds in play areas
- Support to community groups
- Council support of an allotment society

What would you like to achieve through a food growing strategy?

- Dialogue
- Biodiversity
- Diverse range of opportunities for growing – size of space, type of growing
- Achieve a scaling up of food grown and consumed in Scotland and local communities
- A statutory requirement for developers to include allotments/food growing areas within all new developments
- Greater community engagement and a normalising of voluntary growing. Many people feel they don't want to 'work' for no pay
- Improvements in healthy eating and especially mental health outcomes
- Access to gardens and greenspace to become mainstream in education. Outdoor learning to be implemented and embedded in community spaces
- Increased community growing projects (varying types of provision) that can be sustained
- Details of how to encourage community-ownership and management

What do you need to implement a food growing strategy?

- Identify as a priority in terms of funding (local authority)
- Reference library of as many examples of different types of growing as possible
- Make links with NHS and health services projects
- Links to local plan/planners
- Elected member/CEO support and budget
- Community food hubs to store/sell/distribute/exchange food
- Value ascribed to growing space equivalent to that for housing/shopping/parking spaces with city development plans
- An office with time to write the strategy in the first place
- More accessible funds for local authority. Community gardeners need to be valued and employed to facilitate growing
- Local authorities must become eligible applicants for the Climate Challenge Fund

5. Key points and recommendations for further action

1. Actions led by GYOWG:

1. Engagement with stakeholders – site visits, exhibitions, workshops and presentations can help to demonstrate what the requirements and impacts of allotments and community growing projects are. Effective strategy making can only be done with a strong understanding of these requirements and impacts, and therefore supporting work to build understanding is necessary.
2. Sharing Good Practice - Using the GYOWG website, and other resources to share good practice and bring together local authority officers and other relevant stakeholders concerned with Food Growing Strategies (Planners, Community Learning and Development Officers, local people, Housing Associations, Health Improvement practitioners, schools etc). This could include highlighting a range of management options, including Local Authority amenity planting such as that carried out by Falkirk Council.
3. Signposting funding opportunities – using the GYOWG website to signpost towards a range of funding and finance opportunities available to Local Authorities and Communities for allotments and community growing projects.

2. Clarification from Scottish Government on:

1. Should sites suitable for food growing be identified and then held until there is demand, or is there an expectation for sites to be “created” and hoping that this will galvanise interest?
2. Can there be flexibility in using existing assets? – for example, some LAs have regional waiting lists, which could be opened up if there is available land in a different region, or even perhaps across LA boundaries
3. What land and organisations such as private allotments should be included in FGS?
4. Will Local Authorities be hit with targets (e.g. number of sites, area of land etc) and associated reporting duties? Guidance on the expected reach and standard of the strategy would be useful.

3. Guidance notes and accompanying briefing papers/links on:

1. Partnership working between communities and local authorities in developing and delivering Food Growing Strategies, and in ensuring Food Growing Strategies complement other policies and strategies.
2. Engagement with communities, especially in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.
3. Identification of suitable land for community growing.

Appendices

Programme:

An Introduction to Food Growing Strategies

9:00-15:30, 22nd September, 2016

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh



9:00	Registration Tea, Coffee and biscuits Question board
9:50	Welcome Pat Abel, Chair of Grow Your Own Working Group
10:00	Food Growing Strategies: Context and best practice Charlie Powell, Director of Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens Julie Procter, Chief Executive of greenspace Scotland
10:30	Key Note Speech Roseanna Cunningham, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
10:50	Tea, Coffee
11:15	Workshop session 1 Workshop 1 Identifying land: How to assess how much land is available, what is needed, and where. Workshop 2 Increasing provision: What opportunities are there to work in partnership to help increase provision? Workshop 3 Areas of socio-economic disadvantage: Taking a community development approach and working in partnership with communities.
12:15	Lunch
1:00	Workshop session 2 Workshop topics repeated
2:00	Workshop changeover and comfort break
2:15	Workshop session 3 Workshop topics repeated
3:15	Summary and next steps
15:30	End

<http://www.growyourownsotland.info/>

Attendee list

Andrew	McClay		East Renfrewshire Council
Andrew	Reid	Treasurer	SAGS
Brenda	Murray	Development plan Team Leader	Perth and Kinross Council
Bob	McAllister		City of Edinburgh Council
Calum	Davidson	Arboricultural Officer	Aberdeenshire Council
Chad	Fraser	Gardener	Granton Community Gardeners
Charlie	Cairns	Greenspace Manager	Inverclyde Council
Charlie	Powell	Chief Executive	FCFCG
Clare	Hill	Parks Development Officer	Fife Council
Colin	Mackay	Team Leader	Stirling Council
David	Lowdon	Acting Open Space & Technical Support Team Leader	South Ayrshire Council
Diane	Alderdice	Project Co-ordinator	Forth Environment Link
Donna	Mills	Assistant Projects Officer	Stirling Council
Ea	O'Neil	Programme Manager	greenspace Scotland
Emilie	Wadsworth	Biodiversity & Heritage Officer	CSGNT
Eve	Keepax	Food and Environment Officer	Eco Schools Scotland
Graham	Wall	Landscape Services Manager	Aberdeenshire Council
Heather	Rolls		Edinburgh City Council
Hugo	Whitaker	Gardens Manager	Cyrenians
Ian	Edwards	Environment Team Co-ordinator	Falkirk Council
Jason	Hedley	neighbourhood operations manager	Scottish Borders Council
John	Glover	Community Land Advisor	CLAS
Josephine	Gillies	Snr Landscape Officer	South Lanarkshire Council
Judy	Wilkinson	Volunteer	Scottish Allotments Group
Julie	Procter	Chief Executive	greenspace Scotland
Karen	Davidson	Growing Together Advisor	FCFCG
Kate	Orchard	2000m2 think global, eat local	Whitmuir Farm
Kathy	Knox	Senior Land Services Officer	Clackmannanshire Council
Keith	Masson	Climate Change Officer	Highlands Council
Kevin	O'Kane	Greenspace Officer	Fife Council
Lauren	Hollas	Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer	East Dunbartonshire Council
Leonie	Alexander	Urban Biodiversity Project Officer	Royal Botanical Gardens of Edinburgh
Linda	Pike	Volunteer	Glasgow Allotments Forum
Lynn	Carr	Amenity Services Manager	South Lanarkshire Council
Mandy	Brown	Planning Officer - Environment	Falkirk Council
Mhairi	McFadyen	Community Builder	Ahead Project
Mira	Bogicevic	NS Open Space and Technical Officer	South Ayrshire Council
Pat	Abel	Trustee	Nourish
Paul	Renwick	Development Worker	Fauldhouse CDT
Peter	Duncan	Allotment Officer	Fife Council
Peter	Sandwell		
Richard A	Allen	Consult	Fci
Rob	Ford	Community Garden Development Officer	ELGT
Robin	Cathcart		
Robin	Maclean	Food and Drink department	Scottish Government
Roz	Corbett	Scotland Development Manager	FCFCG
Sandra	Garner	Operations Leader	The Conservation Volunteers
Sandy	Highton	Sustainable Development Officer	Aberdeen City Council
Sandy	Paterson	Natural Environment Technician(Allotments)	Glasgow City Council
Sarah	Archibald	Senior Health Promotion Specialist	NHS Lothian
Sarah	Lewington	2000m2 think global, eat local	Whitmuir Farm
Stephanie	Kerr	local community planning officer	East Lothian Council
Steve	Edwards	Placemaking Officer	Renfrewshire Council
Tom	Kirby		Granton Community Growers
Trish	Connolly	Planning Officer	Scottish Borders Council
Zarina	Ahmad	Climate change & environment officer	Cemvo Scotland
Zoe	Pjoul		Nourish

Summary of Evaluation Forms

30 people completed a paper / online evaluation form of the event.

Q1. How well organised was the event?

Generally people indicated that the event was well organised, with the following specific comments:

- "The Minister's address was good"
- "There was a good range of topics so the breakout sessions covered a lot of ground"
- "Very well organised and timely"

Q2. Has the event helped you to understand details of the Food Growing Strategy –

- Yes x 12
- "Yes, I had very little knowledge of the strategy before I came to this event"
- "It has helped me start to think about the sorts of things we need to consider, people we should involve and reminded me of the importance of the 'bottom up' approach. I am much more relaxed about having to do this piece of work now"
- "Yes, I was glad to hear the importance put on the point that this is not just about allotments"
- "The talk by Julie Procter was very useful to demonstrate how the strategy could fit with other policies"
- "This has given a clearer idea of expectations, constraints and timescales"
- "Yes, I wasn't that well informed but now I know where to go to find some more and become involved"
- "This was a useful fact finding session with opportunity to input. I look forward to seeing the draft guidance"
- "It helped confirm the requirement, but not any details of it. Very informative about what's happening on the ground"
- "Not so much the detail – but I hope some detail will come out of all the interesting discussions"
- "No – I need at least an outline template of what can/should be in it"
- "Not entirely – I still think a template of contents will be useful for authors in Local Authorities"

Q3. How useful do you think the Food Growing Strategy will be to your work?

Quite - Very useful – 18

- "Currently there is a disjointed approach within local authorities as there are many sections who have key roles including planners and estates teams for example and this will hopefully facilitate a joined up approach"
- "It will place a clearer emphasis on the responsibilities of local authorities in relation to food growing and the provision of allotments and growing areas"
- "Our Green Network strategy requires that we look at options for community growing and start to work up projects. Because it is a statutory requirement, food growing strategy will fulfil this piece of work and help us get together a wide range of people and organisations to help deliver."
- "It will be required for future management and creation of allotment sites and community growing sites"
- "Potential to deliver so many agendas in a fun way"
- "This will assist in methodology of making land and open space available for supporting community food growing"
- "This will add to my workload, but it is a welcome and positive initiative"

Unsure x 4

- "It depends on how we apply it to make things happened and overcome other department's barriers"
- "I am unsure in the strategy will help to deliver more growing opportunities on the ground"

Q4. What was the most / least useful part of the day?

Most useful

- The workshops x 11
- Discussion with others x 5
- The presentation from Granton Community Gardeners x 4

Q5. Is there anything else that you would add or change?

- "A template of contents would be useful"
- "Some further guidance about what should and can be in the document"
- "More on how to assess demand realistically"
- "We need more input and information – we struggle to offer input when we don't really know the basics"
- "An opportunity to feedback on the proposed template is required and assistance with the actual delivery of a meaningful food growing strategy would be useful"
- "We need a strong lead from Peter Duncan to Local Authorities to ensure they put this up to the top of their agenda"
- "More delegates from projects and the third sector would have widened discussion"

"I was very sceptical about the power of urban farming and after this day I really changed my mind"