

Natural Environment Officer (Community Growing) Report July 2018

Site Works Maintenance Delivered

New Victoria Gardens Allotments

Pest control services organised, Japanese Knotweed spraying program updated.

Kennyhill Community Allotments

Victoria Park Allotments

Merrylee Allotments

Tollcross Park Allotments

After taking up G.C.C's offer of free accessible trough planters between these 4 sites they have received 20 planters delivered in the last month. Growing medium has been delivered to allow these planters to make a welcome contribution to growing in the City.

High Carntyne Allotments

Repair to damaged fence organised

Kelvinside Allotments (Julian Ave)

Further repair to standpipes has been requested. Contractor to carry out investigatory work and identify any repairs required

Bellahouston Demonstration Garden

Wasp nest treated.

Citywide Site Developments

Over the last five years, (Glasgow City Council's) programme of service reform and change have been integral to closing a combined spending gap of more than £220 million.

While this is not a final budget position, after looking at a wide range of factors that influence the resources available to the council, GCC

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Financial Services has identified a net spending gap of £165.8 million over the next three financial years.

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Further site developments are envisaged for delivery in late 2017/early 2018 where appropriate budgets are secured.

More detail on this will be provided when approaches to the relevant associations have been made.

Waste Management

Skips and Green Waste Cage Provision

It would be the intention of G.C.C. to continue to support the provision of skips/Green waste cages to assist associations in clearing plots to allow them to be re-let and for non –compostable green waste generated by site maintenance

G.C.C would seek the support of every individual plot holder in looking at their current allotment practices and see where they can make improvements in their waste management.

G.C.C. would strongly recommend composting and weed teas as a first stop for the sustainable management all organic waste arising on allotments. Simple and easy to do, these process can improve the health of soils and crops grown in these soils and reduce the waste produced by ploholders going to landfill and the pressures such behavior brings to bear on budgets.

G.C.C. once again take this opportunity to confirm that where materials are taken onto a site by a plot holder and then not used it would be the responsibility of the **plot holder** to dispose of this waste sustainably.

As advised last year, G.C.C. would understand that if the facilities exist to bring these waste materials to site it would be reasonable to understand that the facilities exist to remove them from site also. These materials can generally be processed at the Household Waste Recycling Facilities across the City

G.C.C provides Household Waste Recycling Facilities in 4 locations across the City

Further information on what can be processed at these facilities and their locations can be found at the following link.

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17040>

Water Usage

As previously advised water supplies should be turned off from November 19th 2017 and turned back on from March 16th 2018.

G.C.C. would encourage the use of rain water harvesting techniques by all plot holders citywide.

Mediation and dispute resolution

As the last line of appeal within disputes between associations and association members, G.C.C has a duty to retain a level of objectivity to ensure transparency in governance.

This restricts G.C.C. from becoming involved in any dispute between associations and members until **ALL MECHANISMS OF NOTICE** have been exhausted by associations.

G.C.C. would once again seek to remind all association members that a free and confidential service is offered by Community Safety Glasgow. While G.C.C recognise this to be an area which can give rise to high emotion, services such as the mediation offered by CSG can lead to creative solutions being sought without the need to accelerate issues through the above mentioned mechanisms of notice.

G.C.C. would offer that this is a service, available to all citizens of Glasgow and one which can be quite easily taken up if there is buy in from all parties.

See the enclosed link for further information and FAQ's

<http://www.communitysafetyglasgow.org/what-we-do/reducing-offending-behaviour/mediation>

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Communication

All email from association members, association management committees, Glasgow Allotment Forum and Scottish Allotment Garden Society should initially be directed to land@glasgow.gov.uk

Can all associations also ensure that any communication from G.C.C. to the association is dealt with at committee meetings as correspondence?

Please ensure that any change of office bearer is communicated to G.C.C without exception or delay.

St Mungo Allotment Competition Trophy 2018.

As previously communicated to Allotment Associations Citywide and now in its 75th year, entry to the competition opened on June 11th 2018. On line entry forms can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19513>

Closing date for entry is July 6th 2018.

Glasgow City Council intends to expand the scope of our current celebratory events within the Landscape Design and Parks Development team to highlight horticulture within the City to a wider audience.

To achieve this intention, we are compiling the existing G.C.C. awards into a civic reception hosted in the City Chambers in August.

This reception will incorporate the International Rose Trials, Parks & Greenspace and Allotments which will include the St Mungo Allotment Competition Trophy presentation.

It would be my intention to share further information on this particular event, with participants citywide, when it becomes available.

G.C.C. would see this as an excellent opportunity to highlight and promote allotments in the City to a wider local and international audience and give an idea of the effort it takes to maintain a plot to the standards achieved in the competition.

Open to all associations Citywide, further information on the competition can be found here:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17049>

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GAF New Plotholder Awards.

Sponsored by the Incorporation of Gardeners, information regarding the above has been shared with allotment associations citywide.

The awards will be presented by IoG, Deacon Bill Peebles at the Celebration of Allotments event on October 6th from 2pm to 4pm in St Margaret's Episcopal Church.

Further information on the completion and event is available at the following link:

<https://glasgowallotments.org>

Closing date for entry is July 7th 2018.

Food Growing Strategy Development & Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

As an integral part of tripartite talks between the Scottish Government, Scottish Allotment & Gardens Society & Local Authorities, G.C.C is committed to ensuring input into the development of secondary legislation and guidance notes to the enacted Part 9 Allotments of the CEA 2015.

As previously shared with allotment associations, the Scottish Government has opened a consultation on Part 9 statutory guidance on Monday 24th June 2018 and is due to close on Monday August 20th 2018.

This consultation can be accessed at the following link:

<https://consult.gov.scot/food-and-drink/part-9-allotments/>

The guidance covers the following 10 sections of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, where Ministers considered that additional guidance to local authorities would be helpful:

Section 110 – Offer to lease allotment

Section 111 – Duty to maintain list

Section 112 – Duty to provide allotments

Section 114 – Access to allotment and allotment site

Sections 115 and 116 – Allotment site regulations; allotment site regulations: further provision

Section 119 – Duty to prepare food-growing strategy

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Section 120 – Duty to review food-growing strategy

Section 123 – Delegation of management of allotment sites

Section 124 – Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure

It should be noted that while this consultation runs until August with results expected later in 2018, the two year FGS development period commenced on April 1st 2018.

G.C.C has taken the opportunity to utilise the time frames laid out by the Scottish Government and pre-emptively began development stages of the Glasgow FGS. Two consultation events, in relation to the FGS development process, were held in November/December 2017. These events sought feedback on actual and potential food growing sites in two areas of the city i.e. in the wards of Southside Central/Pollokshields and Partick East/Victoria Park.

A Report by the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods and Sustainability which was presented to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee for discussion on Tuesday 12th June 2018 . The meeting schedule with a link to the papers is as follows:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/agenda.asp?meetingid=15576>

In very broad terms this report covered the requirement under the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015: Section 9 for all Scottish Local Authorities to produce a Food Growing Strategy for their areas and more specifically Glasgow City Council's response to this statutory requirement.

For your information the report and associated papers cover the following:

- The report itself, “**Food Growing – Allotments and Green Spaces**” which outlines the background to the statutory requirements (including the legal requirement to prepare a Food Growing Strategy

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by April 2020), the work to date and a broad outline on how this requirement will be met in Glasgow. It also contains links to a 2016 report on a potential allotments strategy and the final report “Go Grow Glasgow” by consultants based on the feedback from an engagement and participation process to assist GCC in the development of a community and allotment growing strategy.

Additional Papers

- A final report “Glasgow Allotments Say” by consultants presenting the feedback from the allotments community on their perceived key issues for the future of allotments in Glasgow.
- A summary of the key issues from the ‘Glasgow Allotments Say’ report
- A summary of the key issues from the “Go Grow Glasgow” report

As part of the development of the FGS the next stages will include;

- the development of an Allotments Handbook, further details of which can be found in the Committee Report referred to above.
- a series of electoral ward based consultation workshops will be undertaken to assist with the identification of land for growing.
- As agreed with the above committee, the Action Plans arising from these consultation reports will now be developed and stakeholder participation will be sought where appropriate.

Funding

G.C.C. continue to seek capital funding to increase the supply of allotments within Glasgow and will continue to support associations as they seek external funding sources not available to Local Authorities

G.C.C would direct the attention of associations seeking funding for specific projects to the My Parks Scotland website
Based on crowd sourced funding MyPark Scotland can take your project ideas to a wider audience which can provide seed funding. This seed funding can be useful in encouraging matched funding from other providers whilst demonstrating the enthusiasm of association members for their sites.

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Information and advice on proposed projects would be available from My Park Scotland and G.C.C.

G.C.C has supported associations in bids to local Area Partnership Committees

Several allotment associations have also been successful in bids for external funding which have had a beneficial impact on infrastructure of individual sites; we would suggest this may be another area where best practice can be shared between associations via GAF.

Other ongoing funding stream can be accessed at the following:

Greggs Foundation Local Community Projects Fund

Grants available for not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects or provide equipment to people in need at the heart of their local communities. Maximum value £2,000. Next deadline 22 June more details [here](#).

Improving People's lives by improving their environment

The environmental grants programme aims to improve people's lives by improving the environment. The programme is administered by seven charity committees throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

Organisations may only apply once per calendar year for this grant.

<http://greenspacescotland.org.uk/bags-of-help.aspx>

Tesco Bags of Help

If you have a project ready for funding between £1,000 and £4,000 anywhere in Scotland then apply [here](#) at any time.

Community engagement fund

Scottish Natural Heritage is giving organisations another opportunity to apply for funding for projects helping communities make the most of their local greenspaces. Please visit our website for further information.

<http://www.greeninfrastructurescotland.org.uk/news/community-engagement-fund-reopen>

Climate Challenge Fund Climate Challenge Fund grants of up to £150,000 are available per community-led organisation, per year, for projects taking place between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2020. The deadline to submit an

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Expression of Interest is 5pm on 28 August 2017. For 2018/19 Zero Waste Scotland is making European Regional Development Funding available as match funding for projects that focus on waste and the circular economy. Development Grants of up to £1,500 are also available to help community-led organisations identify and scope out potential climate action projects.

<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/news/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/climate-challenge-fund-open/>

Volunteering Matters Action Earth 2018 Grants now available

Grants of between £50-250 to run environmental activities in Scotland's green spaces. This could include creating or improving community gardens, wildflower meadows, ponds or woodlands. Projects should take place between April and December 2018. Grants are allocated on a first-come basis. Read more about the criteria and register [here](#).

Community Food and Health Development Fund

Funding from £500 to £3,000 is available for groups and agencies that wish to improve access to, and take up of, a healthy balanced diet. The development fund closes on Friday 6 July. Find out more [here](#).

Heritage Lottery Fund Resilient Heritage grants

Resilient Heritage grants of £3,000 - £250,000 can help to strengthen your organisation and build the capacity of your staff and volunteers to better manage heritage in the long term. Grants can fund activities to acquire new skills or knowledge, or new models of governance, leadership and business. Whether organisations are facing challenges around income and fundraising, or preparing to take on new forms of investment, such as social investment, Resilient Heritage can support these processes. More [here](#)

Fruit Tree Summer Pruning Workshop

Following on from the successful Fruit Tree winter pruning workshop, G.C.C. are pleased to extend an invitation to participate in a fruit tree

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summer pruning workshop to be held in Bellahouston Demonstration Garden on July 11th 2018.

Limited to 20 places per workshop the morning workshop will be based on a 10am arrival for a 10.30 start and the afternoon session will be based on a 1pm arrival for a 1.30 start.

Booking is by email only to land@glasgow.gov.uk.

Please ensure you indicate your preference for the morning or afternoon session when booking.

Please dress appropriately for the conditions and bring your own tools.

And Finally

Congratulations to Hamiltonhill Allotment Association who advised that they have been successful in achieving grant funding from Volunteering Matters to create a new bog garden and plant a wildflower meadow on site this year.

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