

# **Natural Environment Officer (Community Growing) Report**

**Nov 2018**

## **Site Works Maintenance Delivered**

### **Beechwood Allotments**

Clearance works to secure boundary wall completed 2018.

### **Westthorn Allotments**

Storm damaged fence repaired and windfall removed. Pest control services organised.

### **New Victoria Gardens Allotments**

Pest control services delivered.

### **Trinley Brae**

Pest control services organised.

### **Bellahouston Demonstration Garden**

Further wasp nests treated.

### **Oatlands Gate**

Wasp nest treated

### **Croftburn Allotments**

Maintenance of grass verge carried out.

### **Mansewood Allotments**

Pest Control service delivered

### **High Carntyne Allotments**

Repair to female toilet

Repair to damaged fence

### **Kelvinside Allotments (Julian Ave)**

Repairs to standpipes. Contractor carried out investigatory work and repaired where required.

### **Hamiltonhill Allotments**

Repair to standpipe

## **Accessible Planters Delivered**

**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 5 sites have received 20 planters delivered in 2018. Growing medium was delivered to allow these planters to make a welcome contribution to growing in the City.

Further to the installation of raised beds as advised in the previous Natural Environment Officer (Growing Spaces) reports, we would seek any further expressions of interest in these beds from any Glasgow City Council sites. Please contact [land@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:land@glasgow.gov.uk) to register your site's interest.

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

Further site developments are envisaged for delivery in 2018/ early 2019 where appropriate budgets are secured.

A pragmatic approach has been adopted in engaging in initial approaches to Mansewood, Budhill and Hamiltonhill Allotments to look at increasing available plots within these sites. Further information will be made available on these approaches as these projects develop.

### **Germiston Allotments**

9 plots addressed to make available for re-letting. We are working with Germiston Allotment Association's standard letting process to secure new tenants. An Open Day planned for early October may be revisited in mid-November to conclude letting any un-let plots at that time. Further details on this will be made available to associations to share with those on their waiting lists closer to the Open Day.

## Recruitment

Further to additional funding being secured, Glasgow City Council is currently recruiting for an additional officer to assist with the development and delivery of our legislative requirements in relation to Part 9 Allotments of the Community Empowerment (Scotland).

Other resources have also been sourced with Greenspace Scotland being retained to facilitate forthcoming engagement workshops.

## Plot Rental

Glasgow City Council allotment plot rental charges are very favourable in comparison to other local authority charges UK wide and more locally within Scotland.

G.C.C can confirm that they have managed to maintain plot rentals at the current rates for the sixth year in succession. Missives and a "How to Guide" are intended to be issued in early November.

Plot Rental Rates	Aberdeen City Council	Edinburgh City Council	Glasgow City Council
	£		
Full Plot	82.92	108.00	34.50
Full Plot Concession	41.46	54.00	25.00
½ Plot	41.46	54.00	17.25
½ Plot Concession	20.73	27.00	12.50
¼, 1/3 plot raised bed	11.85 (micro plots)	n/a	8.65

Figures correct as of Oct 2018

## **Waste Management**

### **Skips and Green Waste Cage Provision**

It has been noted that the inappropriate use of green waste cages in 2018 has occurred on several occasions with Operational colleagues having to apply additional resources to addressing this misuse.

We have been advised that several cages have been found to contain large amounts of soil, which seems counter-intuitive to allotment growing.

Several associations have attempted to address this misuse however I would request that all associations utilising green waste cages take every effort to ensure the membership is fully informed of the following

- That these cages are limited to a specific weight as advised when a cage is requested
- That they are only to be used for non-compostable green waste arising from site maintenance works.
- Where a cage is found to be overweight the association would be responsible to bring the cage back to a safe weight.

Failure to utilise this ad hoc service appropriately as described, impacts on Operational Service delivery and on budgets and availability of cages.

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 of 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 behaviour brings to bear on budgets. If further information on is required on weed teas, use of mulches and composting, please contact [land@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:land@glasgow.gov.uk) in the first instance.

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 consistently advised in previous correspondence, 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>

As with previous November reports G.C.C. have provided anonymised data highlighting current trends in skip/green waste cage requests.

Please see the undernoted table for this years' figures.

Site	Green Waste Cage	Skips	Total
1	1	2	3
2		1	1
3	1	3	4
4		2	2
5			0
6		1	1
7		3	3
8	3		3
9			0
10	1	1	2
11	3	2	5
12	1	2	3
13		1	1
14			0
15		1	1

16		1	1
17	2	4	6
18	1	3	4
19		2	2
20			0
21			0
Totals	13	29	42

Regrettably this shows a 5% increase on 2017's low of 40 skips and green waste cage requests received. The figures above highlight there are still sites who are making a higher proportion of requests and this should be addressed at association level.

Glasgow City Council has highlighted waste management requirements in each report to Glasgow Allotment Forum in the past year and shared tips and hints on repurposing perennial weeds and green wastes through sustainable practices where requested.

G.C.C. will review provision of skips and green waste cages on-going in 2019 and would request Glasgow Allotment Forum consider ways in which best practice from sites who currently manage their waste in a sustainable manner can be shared with other associations in line with the ethos of environmental sustainability which GAF have strongly supported previously.

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

## **Water Usage**

G.C.C. would encourage the use of rain water harvesting techniques by all plot holders citywide and with this in mind have sought expressions of interest from sites keen to re-use 2nd hand wheelie bins for such a purpose should these become available. We are currently working with colleagues in Waste Management to correlate the information provided so far and to determine the next steps in this process.

Water supplies should be turned off 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 and resumed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Please contact [land@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:land@glasgow.gov.uk) if you wish to discuss

maintaining your supply through the winter and your reasons for this requirement.

## **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 recognises 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>

## **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](mailto: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 also ensure that any change of office bearer is communicated to G.C.C without exception or delay.

## **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.

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.

By way of an update, Officers from G.C.C recently attended a further meeting with the Scottish Government & other growing organisations to “sign off” on guidance notes in relation to Section 119.

Guidance notes for the 9 other sections (see below) of the Act in scope are still in development. It is worth noting that the timeframes for meeting legislative requirements commenced in April 2018

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

Section 120 – Duty to review food-growing strategy

Section 123 – Delegation of management of allotment sites

Section 124 – Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure

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

12<sup>th</sup> 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 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. This would be intended to include Rules and Regulations and other administrative processes relevant to allotments.
- Further working with the national body Greenspace Scotland, to ensure 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. It would be intended that such Action Plans lead to the co-development of suitable sites, capturing the skills, local knowledge and desire of existing growers, those on waiting lists and other relevant stakeholders.

## **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.

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:

## **Grow Wild Youth Project funding**

Join Grow Wild's mission to empower young people aged 14-25 to develop a creative idea into a project that helps raise awareness about UK native wildflowers and fungi. Groups and individuals can flex their creative skills to raise awareness and celebrate wildflowers and fungi. This could include transforming a space, holding an event or giving a performance. Grow Wild are looking for project ideas that will excite other people to get involved and make an impact in the community. Successful projects will receive £500 to turn their idea into a reality. You can use photography, music, drama, dance, film, visual arts or more to

celebrate UK native wild flowers and fungi in fun and inventive ways.

[More](#)

### **Young Start Big Lottery Fund**

Young Start funding is reopening with grants of between £10k and £100k available for projects that create opportunities for children and young people aged eight to 24 to realise their own potential. [More](#)

**Greggs Foundation - Environmental Grants** The environmental grants programme aims to improve people's lives by improving the environment. Preference will be given to small, locally based and community led organisations with a turnover not in excess of £300,000 per annum. All projects must deliver a real benefit to the environment and the maximum award is £2000. This will be the last round of funding under this programme. In 2019, they plan to use the funds to deliver larger nationwide projects with some of their key partners. Last deadline: 28th September 2018. [More](#)

**Funding to encourage more walking and cycling** Paths for All has launched a new £2 million fund to help more people choose to walk or cycle for everyday journeys in Scotland. The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) Open Fund is accepting Expressions of Interest from applicants that want to encourage and promote active travel in their area. The grants of between £5000 and £50,000 will require to be match funded and are open to public, community and third sector organisations. [More](#)

### **Volunteering matters action earth - 2018 grants**

Grants of £250 are available to groups of volunteers who are carrying out practical conservation, biodiversity work and habitat creation. They also have a very limited number of Enhanced Health Grants of £500 for projects providing substantial health benefits. All projects must complete by 1 December 2018. Their new [facebook page](#) has great pictures and feedback from completing projects alongside news, funding information, forthcoming events and activities too. [More](#)

### **Tesco Bags of Help**

The Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme is permanently open for applications between £1000 and £4000 from a wide range of community groups, schools, local authorities and organisations. The scheme will fund projects that improve or encourage the use of outdoor spaces such

as allotments and community gardens, greenspaces and parks, as well as a wide range of projects that deliver community benefit. There is no match funding requirement and no restrictions on existing project funding. [More](#)

Need help with your application? Contact the greenspace Scotland community enabler team [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>

### **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](#)

### **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 their 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 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/>

## **Vegware Community Fund**

The Vegware Community Fund gives monthly support to non-profit sustainability projects with new recipients being added as Vegware grows. We are currently taking on a new recipient on a monthly basis. The Vegware Community Fund offers support in two ways:

- Product Donation: a regular donation of Vegware's eco takeaway packaging for use at fundraising events or by volunteers
- Monthly grants: a regular donation of £20-200, intended to contribute to core running costs and act as a basis from which to either focus on their chosen task or apply for project grants.

[https://www.vegware.com/community-fund/info\\_21.html#](https://www.vegware.com/community-fund/info_21.html#)

## **Scotmid Co-operative Community Grant**

The Co-operative has announced that the maximum grant will now be £500. Local community groups, self-help or voluntary groups and charities acting for the benefit of the local community may apply for a grant.

The funding can be used for one-off investments, purchases or events that address one or more of the following categories:

- Children/Youth
- Health & Wellbeing
- Fair Trade
- Social Inclusion
- Arts & Culture
- Environment
- Older people in the 65+ age group
- Active Lifestyles
- Community groups
- Co-operatives

Projects must address a community issue or support a local community initiative and provide benefits to the local community. [More](#)