

Natural Environment Officer (Growing Spaces) Report

March 2019

Site Works Maintenance Delivered

Budhill & Springboig Allotments

Congratulations to the team at Budhill & Springboig Allotment Association who secured funding to install a composting toilet. This has now been installed and will be up and running shortly.

New Victoria Gardens Allotments

Repair/replacement to boundary fence shared with neighbouring property.

Trinley Brae Allotments

Budget has been secured to carry out sectional repairs to the fence and vehicle gates. Works scheduled to be delivered by the end of 18/19 financial year.

Native species hedgerow will also be created in conjunction with T.B.A.A. to increase biodiversity of site and enhance security by design.

Hamiltonhill Allotments

Budget has been secured to carry out sectional repairs to the fence line to deter unauthorised visitors. Works scheduled to be delivered by the end of 18/19 financial year.

Merrylee Allotments

Works ongoing to repair fallen wall and to shore up perimeter wall. Works scheduled to be completed by end of 18/19 financial year.

Citywide Site Developments

Over the last six 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.

Within this context 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.

Recruitment

Glasgow City Council has finalised the recruitment process 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) Act 2015. The officer will uptake their role in mid-March

Additional resources have also been sourced with Greenspace Scotland being retained to facilitate consultations around the development of the Food Growing Strategy.

Plot Rental

In line with previous correspondence please ensure all missive for 2019 plot rental are completed and returned no later than Jan 31st 2019 to:

Sandy Paterson
Natural Environment Officer (Growing Spaces)
Exchange House
231 George St
Glasgow
G1 1RX

Scanned electronic copies can be returned to alexander.paterson@glasgow.gov.uk

As the timeframe for this has passed outstanding missives should be returned as a matter of urgency

Waste Management

Skips and Green Waste Cage Provision

It was noted that the inappropriate use of green waste cages in 2018 had 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 this required on weed teas, use of mulches or composting are required, please contact land@glasgow.gov.uk in the first instance.

G.C.C. once again would like to 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>

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 resumed on 16th March 2019.

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

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.

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

Glasgow Food Growing Strategy



As previously reported 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>

As outlined in the report, the approach being taken in Glasgow is to build a strategy based on city-wide commitments informed by a series of local workshops which capture the priorities for each area of the city. This will draw on feedback from previous consultations i.e. two workshops held in Wards 6 and 8 and Wards 12 and 23.

To develop further the cities local area priorities we will be hosting 8 workshops across the remaining 19 wards between February and May 2019. These workshops will aim to get an understanding of current food growing, to generate interest in food growing and to identify potential growing sites. In addition, three of the 8 workshops will focus on a specific theme in relation to community food growing as well as covering local issues – the themes are social enterprise, outdoor learning and health.

The workshops are as follows:

City Area	Ward Area	Date	Theme
North East	Shettleston + Baillieston	7 Feb 2019	Local Closed
North West	Anderston/City/Yorkhill + Hillhead	28 Feb 2019	Local closed
North East	Springburn/Robroyston + North East	14 March 19	Social Enterprise
North West	Maryhill + Canal	28 March 19	Local
South	Linn + Newlands/Auldburn + Langside	25 April 2019	Local
North West	Garscadden/Scotstounhill + Drumchapel/ Anniesland	30 April 2019	Outdoor Learning
North East	Calton + East Centre + Dennistoun	14 May 2019	Health
South	Greater Pollok + Cardonald + Govan	16 May 2019	Local

The events are free to attend, but registration is required. To do this just click on the link above for the workshop you want to attend.

Whilst we will be circulating details of the events to local contacts and organisations, we would be grateful if you could also support these events by raising awareness of them within your networks.

Please note that these events have “sold out” (even after we increased capacity by 25% for each event) and applications will be taken for waiting lists only.

Initial feedback has suggested that the first two events have been well attended and extremely well received.

For further information on either the workshops or the strategy itself please contact glasgowfoodgrowing@glasgow.gov.uk

Important update from DEFRA: Please ensure this is communicated to your members.

The following link provides information on the upcoming restriction on the use of metaldehyde to protect wildlife and providing information on potential alternatives. This will impact on allotments and growing spaces. G.C.C. understands that greenhouses on allotment plots are classed as temporary structures:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restrictions-on-the-use-of-metaldehyde-to-protect-wildlife>

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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

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/>

CSGN Development Fund now open to applications

Greenspace projects that will improve the environment across Scotland's central belt can now apply for a share of a £350,000 funding boost, contributing to the delivery of Europe's largest greenspace initiative. Find out more on the Central Scotland Green Network [website](#)

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#

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](#)

RHS Greening Grey Britain Community Support Programme - Open for Applications

The Greening Grey Britain (GGB) Community Support Programme is now open and might be of interest to your contacts.

In 2019, the RHS will support a number of intergenerational partnership projects between community organisations and schools/youth groups, who want to work together to transform an unloved space in their area to benefit the local community and environment.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/news/articles/ggb-with-communities>

N.B. You may note that G.C.C. has specifically not included the Scottish Governments Community Growing Fund in this report.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-growing-fund-2019-2020/>

Regrettably this fund is not open to unincorporated Associations. As this would rule out many allotment associations in Glasgow from accessing this fund, G.C.C. have requested information from the Scottish Government to the thinking behind this decision. If this is provided by SG and if appropriate we would intend to share this information with associations.