

Natural Environment Officer (Growing Spaces) Report

Sept 2019

Site Works Maintenance

Tollcross Park Allotments

Repairs to stand pipes requested.

Kelvinside Allotments /Julian Ave

Repairs to stand pipes requested.

Trinley Brae Allotments

Request for Pest Control Officers raised for wasp's nests.

Further request for Pest Control Officers raised for wasp's nests

Budhill and Springboig Allotments

Request for Pest Control Officers raised for on-site vermin.

Oatlands Gate Allotments

Request for Pest Control Officers raised for wasp's nests.

Bellahouston Demonstration Garden

Request for Pest Control Officers raised for wasp's nests.

Further request for Pest Control Officers raised for wasp's nests

High Carntyne Allotments

Request for plumber to repair leak raised.

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.

Staffing

Glasgow City Council has concluded 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 was welcomed to the team in March 2019, contributing to the series of engagement events around the development of Glasgow's Food Growing Strategy.

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

Plot Rental

Glasgow City Council has once again managed to maintain plot rental rates for 2020 at the current rental prices as follows:

Plot Size	£		
Full Plot	34.50		
Full Plot concessionary	25.00		
Half Plot	17.50		
Half Plot Concessionary	12.50		
Fractional (1 1/4, 1/3, raised bed)	8.65		

When considered in the context of plot rental rates of other local authorities in similar urban environments, it is clear that Glasgow's is offering excellent value for money when renting a plot.

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.

Re-use of Surplus Planters

With the closing of Bellahouston Nursery as an operational site, we have a surplus of planters which we have initially offered to educational establishments within the City to provide an opportunity for food growing to become available to our young citizens and support outdoor education. The response to this offer has been almost overwhelming and we will move forward with this project over the next few months.

We would also highlight that Locavore and other community growing enterprises are utilising the site for growing on a Permission to Use format initially with a view to moving towards a lease based Community Asset Transfer.

We look forward to great things arising from the site in the future and the contribution this can make to the availability locally grown produce within the City.

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 **association rules and process** have been exhausted.

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



Glasgow City Council has recently completed a series of community engagement events to get feedback from the City's stakeholders on matters relevant to the development of the Food Growing Strategy; a draft strategy will now be developed for consultation in the late

summer/autumn 2019. Reports developed from the events are available at the following link:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/foodgrowing>

Other reports will available at the same link when published.

In relation to other parts of the CEA, the Scottish Government have now published Guidance for Local Authorities which can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/part-9-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-allotments-guidance-local-authorities/>

The guidance covers the following sections of Part 9:

- 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
- Section 115 - Allotment site regulations
- Section 116 - Allotment site regulations: further provision
- Section 117 - Disposal etc. of allotment sites owned by local authority
- Section 118 - Disposal etc of allotment sites leased by local authority
- Section 120 - Duty to review food-growing strategy
- Section 123 - Delegation of management of allotment sites
- Section 124 - Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure

The section 119 guidance – Duty to prepare food-growing strategy – published in November 2019 can be accessed via link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/part-9-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-allotments-guidance-local-authorities-section-119-duty-prepare-food-growing-strategy/pages/3/>

Following on from the recent community food growing engagement events, a citywide consultation on the draft Food Growing Strategy will be held in the autumn of 2019. We will inform allotment associations and GAF when consultation period is confirmed as feedback would be welcomed. In addition, we will shortly provide an update on the planned response to the additional CEA requirements

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 an 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 required 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>

The Naturesave Trust |

To encourage the greater adoption of sustainable development, especially within the Small and Medium Sized business community. Grants are made to projects which specifically address the promotion and implementation of sustainable development, environmental and/or conservationist improvement and/or general 'green' issues. See the guidelines for further information

[http://www.naturesave.co.uk/document centre/Trust/Naturesave Trust - funding guidelines.pdf](http://www.naturesave.co.uk/document%20centre/Trust/Naturesave%20Trust-funding%20guidelines.pdf)

Eligibility: Public, community or charitable organisations

More information: <http://www.naturesave.co.uk/the-naturesave-trust/>

Environment - Volunteering Matters - Action Earth Awards | £50 - £500 |

Awards from £50 to £250 are available to groups of volunteers carrying out environmental activities. This could include improving ponds, woodlands, meadows and other green spaces to make them more wildlife friendly. Create new habitats by planting nectar-rich flowers, fruit-bearing trees or shrubs. Action Earth Enhanced Grants up to £500 are available for projects which can demonstrate a significant health impact through working with people who have defined health or social needs. They prioritise applications from volunteer groups who: work in areas where there is substantial social or economic deprivation; improve and develop the health and wellbeing of their local community; involve disabled people, vulnerable people or those at risk of

exclusion; encourage and involve people under 26 in practical outdoor conservation.

More information and how to apply at:

<https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/project/action-earth/>

William Grant Foundation |

The William Grant Foundation is committed to a future where everyone in Scotland has the opportunity to thrive, a belief that is deeply rooted in the core values shared by the family and the company. The Foundation aims to: ensure greater opportunities for those who are disadvantaged; strengthen the local communities in which the company operates; improve Scotland's natural and built environment; sustain the unique culture and heritage of Scotland. The Foundation also provides Local Giving funds to each William Grant & Sons company location in the UK for distribution locally. Donations are made at the discretion of employees at each site to support good causes in their own communities, either with cash grants or William Grant & Sons products for use in fundraising.

More information: <http://www.williamgrantfoundation.org.uk/>

St Mungo Allotment Trophy Competition 2019

After another year where the standard of plot entered into the competition received positive comments from our judges and presented them with an incredibly difficult decision to make and after the dust had settled, there was only 1 point separating 1st place from the 1st runner up.

For the 6th year in succession the competition winner was Mr N Smith of New Victoria Garden Allotments, who achieved an outstanding mean average score of 98.5 out of 100 followed very closely by Mr S Malcolm in the 1st Runner up position with 97.5 mean average score.

The 2nd Runners Up spot was taken by Mr J Coll of Berridale Allotments with an excellent mean average score of 87 points.

A more detailed breakdown of the scores, and images from this year's competition can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/24865/St-Mungo-Allotments-Trophy-Competition-2019-Results>

Thanks again to all competing associations for your participation of the competition and we look forward to your continued support for the competition in 2020.

Bellahouston Demonstration Garden Open Day

Thrus Sept 12th 2019 12 – 3pm

Located in Bellahouston Park opposite the ski slope, Bellahouston Demonstration Garden is a unique place for schools, groups and the wider community to learn and grow. Discover how this safe and secure walled garden setting is improving health and participation as well as providing locally-grown seasonal produce.

This is a unique opportunity to gain access to the site and experience for yourself the benefits of being part of the garden brings to client user groups and the wider community and for clients to engage with a wider audience and demonstrate how the garden has a positive impact on their lives by increasing activity levels, offering opportunity for peer group development, creating community cohesion, individual resilience and increasing opportunities for sharing best practice and knowledge. The opportunity to gain access to locally grown seasonal produce is also a key feature of this project.

Accessibility info: Limited - The site is fully hard surfaced and suitable for wheelchair access however the site is sloping and make prove challenging to the those with mobility issues.

Facilities: Toilet, Wheelchair Accessible Toilet
Children should be accompanied by an adult.

