



CPP Strategic Board

Food Growing Strategy Update

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Greenspace Programme Officer



COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING STRATEGY



Recap - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Part 9

Under this legislation, local authorities are required to:

- Undertake new duties in relation to allotment management (i.e. new Allotment regulations, preparation of an annual Allotments Report)
- Increase transparency on the actions taken to provide allotments
- Limit waiting times for allotments, and
- Develop a Food Growing Strategy



Scottish Borders Food Growing Strategy - Delivery

The aim of the Food Growing Strategy:

To support and facilitate anyone who wants to get growing, through existing growing opportunities and new approaches to growing.

Some of what we have achieved in the last 12 months;

7

New allotment plots created in Hawick

23

Community growing projects visited

4

Scottish Borders Community Food Growers Network Meetings hosted

16

Community groups helped with funding applications relating to community growing

11

Community Food Growers Newsletters created and sent out

45m³

Of compost acquired and delivered to community growing projects free of charge

2

Presentations of the Food Growing Strategy delivered to Area Partnerships

Additionally

- Met with NHS representatives to discuss Quality Greenspace ideas and Social Prescribing
- Built and populated an interactive map showing food growing projects and contact details
- Prepared the Annual Allotment Report



Celebrating Success

Our Scottish Borders Community Food Growers Network won a Bronze award at the ASPE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Fleet, Waste and Grounds Seminar in Aviemore.

Scottish Borders Council were presented with a bronze award at the ASPE 'Striving for Excellence' Awards for our work in establishing the Scottish Borders Community Food Growers Network. This is part of the 5 Year Action Plan contained in '**Cultivating Communities**', Scottish Borders Community Food Growing Strategy.

Our network continues to grow, we welcome all groups who are working to provide community growing opportunities in the Scottish Borders to join.





Newsletter

Community Food Growers Newsletter

What's on in July

Greener Melrose

Our Work Days which are the **last Saturday of the month run from 10am – 3pm**, please contact greenermelrose@live.co.uk for more details.

We are also looking for people to create beautiful micro gardens – for our Jubilee project, 'Jewels around the Eildons'. This could be a vegetable patch, pond, or a container. Just take a photo of yourself with your garden and send it to greenermelrose@live.co.uk. We will add it to our online gallery and send you the details.

St Ronan's Wells

Our garden is thriving in the June sunshine. We have a great group of volunteers and always room for more! We can engage people in all levels of activity so don't be put off by lack of garden knowledge or physical stamina. **We meet on Thursdays between 10.30 and 2.30.** Feel free to just come for a visit, it's a very beautiful garden and at its very best just now. Look forward to seeing you there.

Contact Jan 07739031868 for more information

ISSUE 9 JULY 2022

In this issue ...

- Greener Gateway Community Awards
- Greener Melrose - Forest Garden Party a big success!
- Scottish Borders Community Food Growers Network wins Bronze award
- The Edible Garden






 #yourpart



Community Food Growers Newsletter

What's on in August

Greener Peables

Wed 17th August
10-12 | Spanish

Fri 19th August
11-1 | Music for Wellbeing (with Health in Mind)
2-3pm | Herb Garden Showcase

Wed 24th August
10-12 | Spanish

Fri 26th August
11-1 | Mental Health Conversations/Stigma (with Health in Mind)

Fri 9th September
2-3pm | Herbs for cooking

Fri 16th September
11-1 | Food & Mood (with Health in Mind)

Fri 23rd September
10.30-11.30 | Seed collecting & processing

The Walled Garden, Wilton Lodge Park

Sat 10th September

Alchemy Film and Arts Festival are hosting an event with food and music in the walled garden in conjunction with dandelion project, Burnfoot Hub and Abundant Borders.

Floral icon

Please email rachel@greenerpeables.org to book your place.

Guest Chefs evenings at Burnfoot Community Hub

In conjunction with Alchemy Film & Arts, Burnfoot Community Hub has been hosting a series of Guest Chef evenings recently. These 'Tea Time' treats have been set up to give local residents the opportunity to enjoy a vegan meal prepared with fresh ingredients from our Community Garden.

The chefs were impressed with what we had growing in the garden and used vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers in their dishes.

It has been a real privilege for us to watch these talented chefs turn our simple garden produce into delicious plant-based meals and we have been amazed at the variety of dishes they have produced for us. The colour and presentation of the dishes had everyone's mouths watering.





 #yourpart



Community Food Growers Newsletter

Space to Grow

Over the last few months at 'Space to Grow' we have watched our seedlings transform into beautiful flowers and tasty vegetables. The group members during their time at the project have sown, transplanted, potted on, planted and finally been able to receive the fruits of their labour by taking home the harvest.

All the members that have attended have been referred to the project to aid mental health recovery and boost wellbeing by engaging in an outdoor venue using plants and natural art as a medium to enhance recovery. This has been our first year having 'referrals' to the project, all those who have attended have benefited in one way or another. When asking the group 'what words come up your experience of attending Space to Grow' here are a few of the words used to describe their experience: - **warmth, acceptance, valued, purpose, companionship, a learning space, creative space**

ISSUE 11 SEPTEMBER 2022

In this issue ...

- Scottish Borders Housing Association; Funding news
- Loxe Langfles Community Garden is now open!
- Best Food Grown in SBT0 Gardening Competition
- Greener Melrose - Penny Plots
- Summer Fun in Burnfoot Hub Community Garden
- Justice Service Greenhouse Partnership




Show worthy cauliflower



starting seed collecting for sowing 2023



Shallot harvest



Staff tending the weed



Humour in the garden

 #yourpart





Interactive Map



SharePoint Site



SharePoint Home

Community Food Growing

Published 07/02/2022

communityfoodgrowing

Community Food Growing

This site is intended for groups to share knowledge, best practice, keep up to date with events and provide a platform for helping each other and positive discussion. The administration will remove any content that is derogatory or unpleasant and block access for the user. Any views expressed in this site are member's views and not those of Scottish Borders Council.

News and upcoming events

SCCAN Networking Cafe event on community food growing

Weather

SharePoint Home

Community Food Growing

Published 07/02/2022

Community Food Growing: South of Scotland
GROWING: SOUTH OF SCOTLAND
WEBINAR * 1 JULY 2021

Funding Opportunities

Title	Hyperlink
Build Back Better Borders Fund	Build back better bord...
Tesco Community Grants	Tesco Community Gra...
Scottish Borders Council Commu...	SBC Community Fund
Learning Exchange Fund	Learning Exchange Fund
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 202...	https://www.scotborde...
Free Trees	https://www.woodland...
Community Garden Funding - up ...	https://ngs.org.uk/iga...

Contacts

First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Any	Alcorn	communityfoodgrowin@scotborders.gov.uk

SharePoint Home

Community Food Growing

Photos

AA Chillies.jpg 23 September, 2021

AA Cooking.jpg 23 September, 2021

AA Courgette.jpg 23 September, 2021

AA Harvest.jpg 23 September, 2021

AA Harvest2.jpg 23 September, 2021

AA Peas.jpg 23 September, 2021

AA PreparingVeg.jpg 23 September, 2021

AA Tomat... 23 Septemb...

baby butternut.jpg 23 September, 2021

Bridgend Park after.jpg 15 February

courgette... 23 Septemb...

SharePoint Home

Community Food Growing

In the Community Woodland next door



A good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life

The Community Food Growing Strategy supports the CPP theme of 'a good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life', contributing to the outcome that 'the Borders has a clear and planned pathway to Net Zero' through:

- Providing local opportunities for food growing, recreation, skills development and health and wellbeing benefits
- Support and facilitate locally, sustainably produced food thereby contributing to minimising local energy demand for food production/transportation
- Circular economy principles are embedded in community food growing models.
- Ensuring community resilience is enhanced by supporting local, self-sufficient community infrastructure

We know that this has started, evidenced in the following slides, but there is so much more we can be doing to fulfil this ambition.



Working with CPP organisations - How it can work successfully

- Step 1 - Greenspace Programme Officer meets with NHS staff from Health and Wellbeing team to discuss opportunities and challenges
- Step 2 - Greenspace Programme Officer takes ideas to SBC's Community Engagement Officer for the locality
- Step 3 - Greenspace Programme Officer and Community Engagement Officers work with partners to formalise a plan to help realise the opportunities highlighted by the Health and Wellbeing team
- Step 4 - Community Engagement Officers help NHS and other partners create a funding bid to bring project into fruition.





CPP Growing Projects Visited

Eildon Housing Association, Kelso

Eildon Housing Association have turned their greenspace at the back of one of their developments into a fantastic set of allotments for their tenants.

This has given much needed outdoor space to people during lockdown, and improved people's fitness and access to home grown food

The next stage of the development is to turn the area on the left into a community garden for local people to come and take part in gardening activities, this is being undertaken in partnership with Kelso High School and Abundant Borders.





CPP Growing Projects Visited

NHS site. Space to Grow, Melrose

This site was created by a dedicated nurse who saw the potential to work with her patients from Huntlyburn outside in a therapeutic, holistic way.

Volunteers maintain the site, and the nurse (and community garden manager) runs sessions for patients on the ward as well as maintaining the site on only 7 hours per week. More funding is needed to sustain and fully develop this amazing resource for both NHS staff and patients.





Examples of other growing projects

Greener Peebles

A charity with a well established community garden running many volunteering, skill share sessions, community meals and groups for parents and children to learn about food growing together. This project is operated on SBC owned land, and has a huge reach



Burnfoot Community Futures

This garden is set in Burnfoot Hub and hosts many family activities, as well as using the produce grown in the garden in their thriving café. Any surplus produce is handed out to the local community.





Chirside Allotments

Chirside have provided their community with 12 allotments on private grounds. They have fundraised to create an allotment site space with uniformed sheds, rainwater harvesting and fenceless boundaries to ensure an open friendly allotment community.



The Edible Garden

This site is situated within the community centre and school grounds in Innerleithen. The Edible Garden is run by volunteers and runs sessions for school children to come and learn about food growing. They also host weekly volunteering sessions for members of the wider community.





Next Steps

- **Invite our CPP to develop community food growing areas on their greenspaces by nominating a dedicated person to work with SBC to identify land and projects**
- Continue to develop the Scottish Borders Community Food Growers Network
- Work with our Planning department to integrate food growing land/opportunities into new development where appropriate
- Work with Scottish Government to set up a Forum for Local Authority officers to share best practice and knowledge to further the delivery of food growing opportunities
- Encourage community growing projects run by CPP organisations to enter the Greener Gateway, Cultivating Communities Award 2023





Thank you

Do you have any questions?

For more information or to join the Scottish Borders Community Food Growers Network please email communityfoodgrowing@scotborders.gov.uk