

Space to Grow

Community Gardening in Scotland



Contents

Page 1	Introduction
Page 2	Setting the scene
Page 3-4	The workshops
Page 3	Where are we now?
Page 3	Who attended the seminar?
Page 4	What are they doing at present?
Page 4	What did people want from the day?
Page 5-19	Community Gardens are:
Page 5	meeting spaces
Page 7	breathing spaces
Page 9	wild spaces
Page 11	healthy spaces
Page 13	learning spaces
Page 15	working spaces
Page 17	living spaces
Page 19	play spaces
Page 20-22	Your Spaces: expectations for the future
Page 23	List of presenters to the workshops
Page 24	Organisations and projects attending the seminar

Introduction

This short report is based on the Spaces to Grow seminar held in Stirling on 27th April 2004. The seminar was organised and run by three organisations with an interest in the development and success of community gardens in Scotland: the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens; Greenspace Scotland and the Scottish Community Diet Project.

The aims of the seminar were:

- to give those who work with community gardens a chance to meet and discuss common issues
- to give those present an idea of what is happening in community gardens in Scotland and the ways in which they have developed
- to highlight the multiple benefits provided to communities by community gardens
- to begin to identify what community garden projects need to maintain their success in the future.

The seminar was structured around the Greenspace Scotland “*greenspaces are ...*” themes as a means of showing the diversity of reasons for developing community gardens and the range of benefits which they can provide. It was the hope of the organisers that, while workshops would each focus on one theme, every garden presented would prove to be providing benefits linking to several themes; this would then be seen as a strength in terms of attracting support for projects. This report contains a summary of the discussions which took place in the seminar workshops, along with a series of short case studies based on the gardens which were used as discussion topics in the workshops.

Setting the scene

The seminar began with an introduction from Jeremy Iles, Director of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens; Julie Procter, Chief Officer of Greenspace Scotland and Bill Gray, National Project Officer of the Scottish Community Diet Project. Each outlined his or her organisation's reasons for supporting the Space to Grow seminar and the links between their activities and community gardening.

A keynote presentation, “*Roots to Health – Community Gardening and Healthy Lifestyles*” was then given by Pam Whittle, Director of Health Improvement and Mary Allison, Scottish Physical Activity Coordinator, both from the Scottish Executive.

“*Scotland's health is improving. We must celebrate this and keep focused. But the gap between the most and least affluent continues to widen and Scotland has poor life expectancy compared to European league tables. Improving health is a priority for all people in Scotland but closing the gap between most and least affluent must continue alongside this. We must mainstream health improvement at the same time as closing this health gap. To achieve this we now have a higher profile for health improvement and inequalities across the health department as well as every other department of the Scottish Executive. This means we have to*

incorporate and integrate health issues into all policy delivery. We recognise that we also have to be focused more on delivery and communication.

What we have to achieve for food and physical activity are many small changes to the choices people make throughout the day, every day of the week. What to eat and how active we are, are fundamentally our own choice. However, we recognise that making a healthy choice is not always the easiest choice for everyone in Scotland. To help people make that choice we are therefore working to create supportive environments. For food this means changing how we produce and supply food – its quality, availability and accessibility are high on our list of priorities. For physical activity this means we have to think more about planning and development of physical infrastructure (parks, streets, play areas etc).

But at the level of the individual, even in the face of inequalities, we have to recognise relevant truths. How often have we heard, “I’ll start tomorrow”, “I’m not as bad as ...”, “I’ve got a few years before ...”. We know that improving health in Scotland is a challenge for each of us but it is not a challenge that we can afford to put off.”

Mary Allison
Scottish Physical Activity Coordinator

The Workshops

Where are we now?

Who attended the seminar?

Space to Grow was aimed at people involved in, or supporting, community gardening in Scotland. It was hoped that the seminar would attract community groups, interested individuals, local authority staff and key voluntary sector organisations.

The delegate list on the day included people working in a range of capacities (e.g. volunteer, lay worker, field worker, community worker, manager, strategist) and in a variety of settings (e.g. schools, Healthy Living Initiatives, Disability Resource Centres, Health Promotion Departments, greenspace projects, environmental groups, Local Authorities).

Participants travelled from all over Scotland and had varying levels of experience of community gardening. Some were interested in starting up a community garden, some in pursuing funding to sustain or develop existing projects. Others were interested in exploring what support their organisations could give to community gardens.

One factor common to all participants was that whatever their role, setting, location or motivation, they recognised the importance of community gardening as a useful vehicle in achieving their wider objectives.

Why did participants feel that community gardens are important?

Participants were asked to indicate why they thought that community gardens are important. All of the “themes” were thought to be relevant – particularly high responses emerged for community gardens as:

- a focus for community development (75%)
- places for people to meet (78%)
- part of health promotion (83%)
- places to relax, promoting well being (83%)
- places for wildlife (86%).

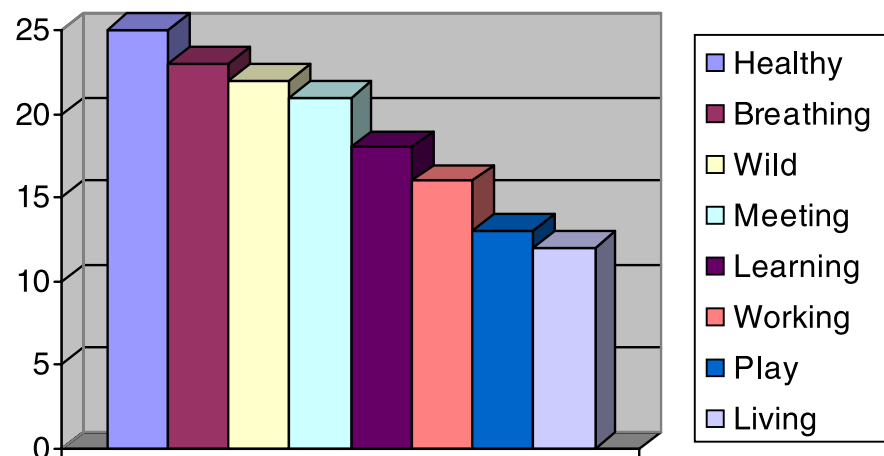
Participants came from projects ranging from Caithness to the Borders and from the Western Isles to Aberdeen

Projects varied greatly in size from small, volunteer-led projects through to large projects employing a number of staff

Public and voluntary sector “support” organisations were also represented

What about their own community gardens?

Those participants who were working with, or planning, a community garden were asked what their garden is. The graph below shows the number of responses against each theme.



People were also asked to outline the reasons why their gardens had been developed. Reasons given included some which were reactive e.g. “an opportunity existed so the garden was created”. Others were more aspirational, seeking to change something for the better.

“there was a site available locally”

“to provide a place for people to relax”

“to allow local people to develop new skills”

“to allow people to grow their own food”

“to provide a place for people to meet”

“to provide a resource for education and learning”

What did people want from the day?

Participants were asked to indicate why they had been interested in the seminar. A wide range of reasons were given for attending but the primary ones were as a networking opportunity and as a way of gaining information, advice, ideas and inspiration. Networking was seen as an opportunity to learn from others, a chance to compare notes and as a way of gaining greater support.

“putting our work into a larger framework”

Community Gardens are ...

This section of the report contains summaries of the workshops which discussed the benefits that community gardens bring.

meeting spaces

This workshop looked at the ways in which community gardens can provide places for people to meet their friends, families and neighbours.

Participants came from diverse projects and backgrounds which led to a rich and varied discussion.

Key issues raised were:



Communities can be many things – often they are subtle combinations of location, culture, history, religion and interest.



In any area and any project, interest will vary with some communities (or parts of the community) more enthusiastic than others.



For people to become involved in garden projects, the gardens must be meaningful, functional, accessible and attractive. We need people to feel ownership.



Projects need to involve people in all stages of development, from original vision to ongoing management.



Project partners and funders also need to be involved.



Community gardens can provide opportunities for volunteering and training.



Community gardens offer a chance for people who are isolated from the wider community (perhaps culturally or due to health problems) to become more involved.



Wide ranging benefits from community gardens can be used to attract interest, support and funding for projects.



Projects can take a long time to come to fruition.

Case Study: Thistle Foundation Garden

The Thistle Foundation is a sheltered housing complex for adults with mobility problems situated in the Craigmillar area of Edinburgh. It consists of 140 houses designed to allow tenants to live independently with their families.

A group of tenants and staff wanted to create an attractive area for people to sit outside the resource centre housed within the complex. This area had to be accessible for all tenants, colourful, educational and (most importantly) provide a mechanism to develop greater links with the wider community. It was to be a safe and uplifting focal point for everyone to enjoy. In 1999, a general meeting was held and the Thistle Community Wildlife Garden Group was formed. A technique called “The Path” was used to create a vision of where they wanted the project to go and to identify how they would achieve this desired goal.

The Group involved a wide range of external organisations and the wider Craigmillar community, (including local Primary and Secondary schools) in designing and developing the garden.

The garden is a place for all of the community (both Thistle residents and the wider community) to meet and relax. Organic vegetables from the garden plots are being used in the new Garden Café.

£42,000 was raised from a variety of sources drawing on the wildlife (e.g. Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan money);

accessibility (e.g. Capability Scotland funding) and community development components of the project.

The Group have now started a new “Path” and their vision for the future includes: the creation of a “Gardening Gym” to give people the opportunity to be more physically active; use of the garden as an outdoor classroom for local schools; organising events and workshops for local people using the garden as a focus; creating a wildlife viewing area and opening a shop to sell garden produce and crafts.



Workshop presenter:
Esperanza Martin, Edinburgh Green Belt Trust

meeting space

healthy space

wild space

learning space

living space

breathing space

working space

breathing spaces



“improving the urban environment and ensuring access to valued “escape” facilities can improve mental health and well-being”

Dr. Allyson McCollam, Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health

Community gardens provide an important resource for people living busy, stressful lives. They are important for maintaining our mental health and well-being. They provide respite from the stresses and strains of modern existence in a number of ways.

They offer an element of calm – a safe and relaxing place to unwind. People also gain mental health benefits through involvement in the creation and ongoing management of community gardens. For example:

- physical activity such as gardening can be a powerful tool in reducing stress;
- community gardeners can benefit from the sense of control and achievement associated with creating and maintaining something which is important to them and their neighbours.

The workshop presentation relating to breathing spaces was based on a community allotment project in Glasgow. Accordingly, discussions tended to focus on the allotment context. Key issues raised and discussed were:



Achievement and sense of worth are strengthened by being part of something bigger – connection to allotment societies etc.



Vandalism is a big issue for allotments and community gardens – polytunnels and greenhouses are particularly prone to damage



Other important links for growing projects are: community food initiatives, food co-ops, community cafes, Local Exchange Trading Schemes



The problem of vandalism needs to be approached carefully – working with the local community is the most effective solution.

Case Study: “Grow your own”

This project set out to develop a community resource from an overgrown plot surrounded by existing allotments which are owned by people in the local community.

The project has been developed by a group of local volunteers supported by BTCV Scotland and the North Glasgow Food Initiative. NGFI focuses on food from many countries and their involvement has helped to attract people from a wide range of backgrounds to the project. The site has toilets and a hall which gives volunteers somewhere to make tea and shelter from the rain.

The project was publicised locally through leaflets supported by direct work with the community. This was very successful in generating interest and attracted a wide range of volunteers, with up to ten volunteers working on the site at any one time.

Anna Franklin, the BTCV Scotland officer responsible for supporting the project said “the allotments act as a lung for the local community. Time spent at the allotment is time out from the general humdrum of life and volunteers enjoy taking part in the project. The allotments are a place where people can escape everyday stresses and social barriers”.

The Future

Plans are in place for a number of developments to the allotment project. These include:

- outreach work with local schools and groups for the elderly
- networking with other allotment groups
- purchasing a polytunnel to widen the range of produce which can be grown
- selling produce through the North Glasgow Community Food Initiative
- developing a LETS scheme
- supplying a community café



Workshop presenter: Anna Franklin, BTCV Scotland

breathing space

meeting space

healthy space

learning space

wild spaces

Community gardens provide an important haven for wildlife particularly in urban areas. More importantly, they give people an opportunity to experience wildlife and the natural world and, in so doing, provide both enjoyment and education.

This workshop looked at the ways in which community gardens can be developed to increase biodiversity.

Key points from the discussions:

-  All gardens attract wildlife
-  Wildlife gardening is about plant selection and how you garden
-  Wildlife gardens need to be managed – it's not just a case of letting them grow wild
-  There can be difficulties with managing gardens as mini-habitats – often the most successful gardens for wildlife are simply gardens where native and wildlife- attracting plants have been used along with features such as birdboxes and feeders
-  People sometimes need to be “educated” about what you are trying to achieve – otherwise they may expect a wilderness and resist what you are planning
-  Creating mini-habitats (wildflower meadows, woodland corners etc.) in a community garden can work but you need to carefully plan how they are to be created and managed
-  Funding can be found for biodiversity projects (including community gardens)
-  Help in planning and designing gardens for wildlife is available from environmental voluntary organisations such as BTCV Scotland and Scottish Wildlife Trust
-  It's easier to get support (and funding) for gardens where wildlife and biodiversity is part of a bigger, more diverse plan

Case Study: Wilton Street Community Garden

The Wilton Street garden is a traditional west end of Glasgow communal garden situated between two crescents of tenemented housing. The garden had been, for many years, managed by the Glasgow City Council Land Services and had both limited public access and an uninspiring appearance. There had also been problems of anti-social behaviour involving local youths. A local resident was interested in creating a garden which would be used and respected by local people and contacted Kelvin Clyde Greenspace (via Glasgow City Council) for assistance.

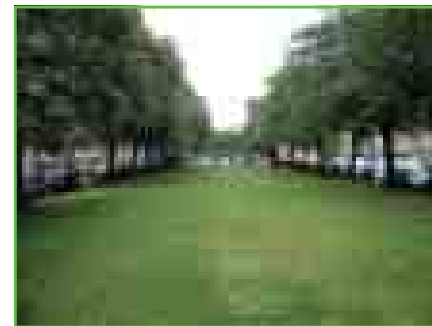
A Steering Group of interested local residents was established and a community consultation carried out, part of which involved a chainsaw artist working on site. This attracted a lot of attention and drew people into the consultation event. It also produced a carved garden seat in the shape of an otter on a rock. The seat was offered by the artist as part of the finished garden “if the garden was good enough”.

An application was made to BBC Scotland/Tern TV which led to Wilton Street being chosen as a Beechgrove Garden community garden project. Although the programme provides its own designer, the community retained its lead role in the process and rejected several of the suggested designs before settling on something which met local aspirations. Glasgow

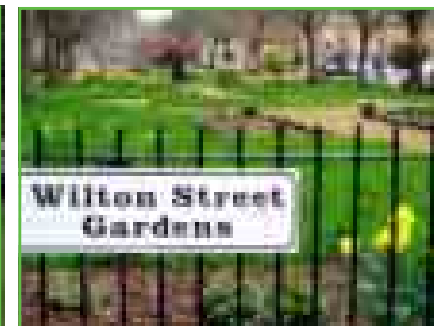
City Council horticultural trainees helped in the creation of the garden.

The completed garden has two components: an ornamental area with a distinctly Parisian feel and a less formal wildlife area with a wetland feature and native and exotic plants selected for their contribution to the biodiversity of the area.

Wilton Street garden is now more attractive to local people and to wildlife. This increase in wildlife is a result of creating “mini-habitats” to mimic wild areas but also of creating the whole garden using a range of plants which attract wildlife either through providing food (nectar, seeds etc.) or shelter. Wildlife gardens don’t need to look wild or like the country – they can look like a Parisian street!



Before



After

Workshop presenter:
James McMahon, Kelvin Clyde Greenspace

wild space

breathing space

meeting space

play space

living space

working space

healthy spaces

Community Gardens, as accessible, quality places which people can use, offer important health benefits. They offer opportunities for physical activity, relaxation and socialising, for learning new skills and developing self-esteem.

Discussions in this workshop focussed on the ways in which community garden projects can be designed and managed to maximise these health benefits.

Issues that came up included:



The importance of accessing the necessary support and skills



Involving users in the development and management of the garden builds self-esteem and confidence



The need for people skills as well as horticultural and design skills



Local authorities can be very important sources of support – but the picture is very patchy with support from some authorities being described as “excellent” and others as “non-existent”



It is crucial that projects have access, and confidence, to engage with local and national agencies



Information and advice should be available “on tap” rather than at the end of an arduous search



Support from a development officer (or similar post) can reduce the risk of overloading volunteers and make projects more sustainable

Case Study: The Disability Resource Centre, Paisley

This garden was developed as part of the resource available to users of the Disability Resource Centre in Paisley. The garden is made up entirely of raised beds to allow access to all users of the centre. Elements within the garden include:

- a sensory garden
- vegetable plots
- fruit trees
- flower beds
- a wildlife garden

All these elements are designed to have a beneficial impact on the health and well-being of those using the resource centre.

The garden contributes to good health through the nutritional value of the food which is produced – some of which is taken home by centre users; some used in the centre café and some is processed and sold at events (for example as chutneys). Good health is promoted through providing outdoor activity, exercise, relaxation and opportunities to socialise with other users of the centre and staff. The garden also offers training opportunities which allow users to develop new skills. The

garden is used to enhance the therapeutic value of a range of learning activities within the centre (e.g. photographic classes).

Users of the centre are always involved in any decisions about the garden – this in itself has health and well-being benefits through building confidence and self-esteem.



*Workshop presenters:
Gordon Dickson and Irene Goodwin
Disability Resource Centre*

healthy space

breathing space

meeting space

working space

wild space

learning spaces

Community gardens can offer diverse learning opportunities, from the simple chance to learn more about gardening, through to activities linked to the school curriculum.

This workshop focused on the ways in which community gardens can contribute to learning in our schools. The discussions threw up a number of interesting views and issues.



To get a school involved in a community garden, the first approach may be to take materials into the school



You need to be aware of how the learning points your garden can offer fit into the curriculum



Find an enthusiastic teacher and use them as a conduit to other staff



Get the head teacher on board – a sustainable relationship with a school depends on support from the Head.



Garden projects need to be aware of the issues for teachers including: health and safety, supervision and the curriculum. Get a teacher to advise you on these issues.



You don't need to do everything at once. Build up involvement slowly.



Support from within the community is essential – this will often give you access to technical expertise



Schools are generally receptive

Case Study: Gartmore Primary School Garden

This garden is part of a planned development of a range of habitats and growing areas in the school field. Pupils learn about the processes used to grow plants and through these, learn about healthy food, medicinal herbs, plants for dyeing fabric, flowers to attract insects, plants of different lands, etc.

The garden has attracted a wide variety of bird and insect life, especially to the pond. It has provided a good harvest of vegetables and fruit for tasting and enough apples to keep the tuckshop going for several weeks. Pupils have worked in teams co-operatively and had practical experience of all stages of caring for the plants.

The garden has been paid for from school fund-raising and environmental grants. The school has received donations of trees, plants and tractor tyres which we have used to make small beds. This year, we grew a good crop of potatoes in old dustbins.

The school orchard has been developed over 13 years, the willow dome and woodland for 4 years and the tyre planters and wildflower meadow for one year. In November 2004, pupils planted a copse of hazel trees and an avenue of gean and rowan.

Margaret Miller, Headteacher at Gartmore Primary said:

“We have learned a lot from developing our garden: ways of working creatively with children out of doors; means of developing the 5-14 curriculum in a practical setting; the profound learning that takes place when children participate fully in planning, creating, monitoring and evaluating their work out of doors”.



Workshop presenter:
Margaret Miller, Headteacher, Gartmore Primary School

learning space

healthy space

meeting space

wild space

working spaces

This workshop looked at community gardens as places which can provide employment opportunities – work skills training, jobs within the gardens and selling produce from the gardens.

Key issues raised were:

-  The breadth of achievement shared by participants within this workshop ranged from securing land for community growing to securing funding to bring plans to fruition. Many projects had successfully developed accredited training opportunities, often leading to employment within some of Scotland's most marginalised opportunities
-  Breaking down barriers within and between communities and building community morale, confidence, cohesion and enthusiasm for growing were the most common threads in almost every participant's story
-  For achievement to be sustained, support in all forms had to also be sustainable. Support included funding; help in kind; the willingness of volunteers to give of their time, energy and enthusiasm; and free advice, training and information services from local and national agencies
-  Achievement takes time - projects need at least 3 to 4 years just to become established
-  One of the key challenges during this set-up phase is to sustain the interest of communities, funders and other key players, especially when progress seems slow. Getting off the ground is achievement in itself. Creating work opportunities is often further down the line
-  Even during the early stages, the importance of taking stock (evaluation) and sharing project achievement (dissemination) as well as the difficulties encountered is essential
-  Sharing findings about the creation of working spaces also helps inform the development of policy and practice on a bigger scale
-  If progress is to be measured, projects need appropriate evaluation tools to measure success. This seems to be a gap as yet unfilled despite being an essential requirement if working and growing spaces are to continue to blossom throughout Scotland.

Case Study: Cearns Grow Your Own Project, Stornoway

The Cearns 'Grow Your Own' project arose out of a need for fresh locally grown produce, which could be sold at an affordable price in the local community shop. Feedback from the residents of the Cearns area – the largest social housing estate on the Western Isles – indicated a desire for fresh fruit and vegetables to be available in the area, with strawberries in particular demand.

The initial funding for the subsequent horticultural project, which consisted of two polytunnels, came from the Scottish Community Diet Project, and this acted as a catalyst for additional funding from a local councillor, Western Isles Enterprise and Western Isles Health Promotion Dept.

Initially, two long-term unemployed people from the area were employed through the New Deal Scheme and short-term funding identified. However, this did not last and revenue funding became a continuous problem. This has now, eventually, been resolved. The project has recently been awarded three year funding through the Big Lottery, to employ a full-time horticultural worker who will be responsible for the overall maintenance of the project. The worker is a long-term unemployed man from the area, who – for a period of six months – will have his wages subsidised by New Deal. The project will also focus on training and in particular the development of an SVQ Commercial Horticulture. This will be led by Fas Fallain healthy eating initiative.

This project has been around now for over two years and it is only now the light can be seen at the end of the tunnel. Securing revenue funding has been difficult and it is apparent that for such projects to last the pace, funding applications have to incorporate so much more than horticultural objectives. The sustainability of a horticultural project is dependent (especially at the beginning) on additional funding, which can focus on training, rehabilitation etc.



working space

healthy space

learning space

living spaces

This workshop looked at the role that community gardens play in promoting and supporting the regeneration of communities. At its simplest, this can relate to an increase in pride in the place where people live. It can also be about the opportunities which community gardens offer for people to come together to develop and deliver a common aim.

Key issues raised in the workshop included:



Community gardens can provide a focus for people to work together



A community garden can transform an unattractive, derelict site into something which people are proud of



Community garden projects are often the first time that people have been able to take some control of what is going on around them



Community gardens can give people the skills and experience that they will need to manage their own gardens – this can be particularly important in communities where high rise blocks are being demolished and replaced by more traditional houses



Community gardens are an important focus for other community events – barbeques, fêtes, bonfires etc.

Case Study: Kelvin Clyde Greenspace

Chris Wood-Gee from Kelvin Clyde Greenspace presented information on a range of projects which are being developed (with their help) by communities in Glasgow. These included a community garden in Drumchapel which will provide an attractive area for people to meet but also help people to learn gardening skills which they can use in their own gardens.

Other projects included the development of a community orchard in the Gorbals – giving new life to an old cemetery; community allotments such as those mentioned in the Breathing Spaces section and work to develop backgreens as community gardens.

Chris also highlighted the important community benefits which came from the Wilton Street Garden (see the Wild Spaces section). This project started as an attempt to cut down on anti-social behaviour and to turn a “no-go area” into a community asset.

Wilton Street is a very mixed area in terms of property ownership, with private householders, student flats and rented social housing mixed together. The west end of Glasgow is usually thought of as quite affluent but parts of Wilton Street are in an area of significant social deprivation. Communities such as this are notoriously difficult to bring together. But, the Wilton Street Garden has:

- brought together the community to the point where they are willing to impose their own views on the design and management of the garden

- increasing community pride
- increased local house values (both in terms of private house prices and letting rates for rented housing)
- provided a social space which is used and valued by a wide range of local people
- increased community capacity – people are now more confident in taking decisions and seeking to influence what happens to their area
- provided significant publicity about community gardens in Glasgow
- provided a model for other communal gardens in Glasgow.



*Workshop presenter:
Chris Wood-Gee, Kelvin Clyde Greenspace*

play spaces

Many community gardens provide a safe and attractive place for children to play. There are, however, very few community gardens which have been designed with play as a primary aim.

This workshop was led by Helen Maclean from Glasgow City Council's Play Services. Helen is working with a number of organisations in Glasgow to include play in the development of gardens, parks and other greenspaces.


This workshop looked at approaches and principles of providing for play and did not include a specific case study garden. Key issues covered included:

 **Play is important for children's health and well-being**

 **Play is important for children's development – socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually**

 **Children have fewer opportunities for play because of:**

- safety fears (traffic, bullying, threat of abduction etc.)
- fear of litigation (increase in claims)
- changes in children's leisure pursuits (TV, computer games etc.)
- changes in culture (adults seeing children playing as a nuisance)
- loss of play spaces
- lack of funding for play (and maintenance of play facilities)

 **Play areas in community gardens should be a balance of formal and natural features (play equipment and trees etc.)**

 **Play areas are covered by the Disability Discrimination Act – designs and maintenance need to take account of disability issues**

 **Enclosures can prevent dog fouling problems**

 **CHILDREN MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN AND CREATION OF PLAY SPACES**

Participants fed back on their experiences of providing for play in community gardens:

Critical factors for success had been:

- involving and working with local children
- a sense of ownership
- in-kind support from local people and businesses
- local political support
- finding maintenance solutions

A number of problems had been encountered including:

- finding ways to involve children
- maintaining interest and involvement through planning and funding delays
- vandalism

*Workshop presenter:
Helen Maclean, Glasgow City Council*

Your spaces: expectations for the future

Key issues emerged from the final workshop which mirrored much of the information supplied by participants prior to the event.

One was the importance of networking, both locally and nationally. This was commonly linked with other key themes concerning the availability of support and resources. It was also repeatedly stressed that the networking, support and resources all had to address both the practical and policy concerns of Scotland's community gardeners.

Networking

Participants enjoyed and valued networking with people involved in similar activities. However time away from day to day activities, especially for those involved in food growing projects was always difficult to find.

Support

Participants felt that local authorities had a significant role to play in encouraging food growing within communities. Local authorities managed schools grounds and allotment sites as well as access to gap sites.

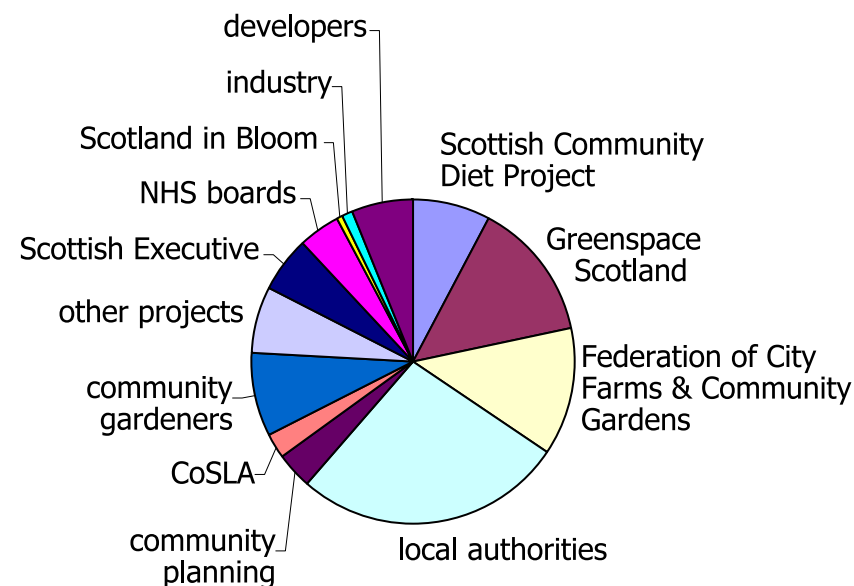
It was felt that the food growing sector in Scotland could benefit from capacity building. It was acknowledged that although many projects existed, and many agencies were keen to support community food growing in principle, there still existed a need

for those growing and those supporting growing activities, to learn from each other.

However, groups working within communities also found that there wasn't enough time to keep on top of the different types of support available from a variety of sources or build up beneficial relationships with each agency. The availability of support at a local level that was "agency wise" and "policy wise" was seen as essential.

Who should be supporting community gardens?

(Based on seminar feedback)



"We need support, but we also have a lot of support to give each other"

Resources

Participants explained that they were frustrated with current methods for evaluating community food growing projects and felt that there must be something available which was more relevant to food growing projects. Getting funders to recognise the hard work which is involved in starting and maintaining a food growing project, as well as the benefits derived, was seen as a difficult but crucial task.

Growing projects often take a great deal of time to set up as growing cycles and seasons have to be taken in to account. Funding cycles and growing cycles very rarely run together.

People working in growing projects found it particularly difficult to plan growing seasons while waiting for information from funders.

Several of the workshops provided insights into the funding of community gardens. These comments are summarised below:



Any proposal requiring funding should be well researched and prepared



Potential funders approached should be appropriate for the proposal



If a project has wide appeal, a wide variety of funders can be approached.



Applications supported by volunteers' letters can work well



Both Grounds for Learning and Scottish Community Diet Project have useful funding source lists available



Where possible, you should show that your project will continue beyond the period of funding



The “short termism” of funding is recognised as a difficulty – you will need to plan for this

Aspirations

A number of people indicated specific actions which they felt would further community gardening in Scotland:



‘We must encourage involvement in community planning’



‘Identifying land within new developments should be a priority’



‘A community garden at the new Parliament building would be a good idea’

Finally, people were asked how they would like community gardens to be perceived in the future. Here are some of the adjectives that people used:

relevant

healthy

positive

safe

exciting

inclusive

fun

relaxing

valuable

curious

useful

dynamic

Workshop Presenters

Meeting Spaces	Espe Martin, Edinburgh Green Belt Trust, Laundry House, Dalkeith Country Park, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 2NA email: esperanza@egbt.org.uk
Breathing Spaces	Anna Franklin, BTCV Scotland, Craigton Village, Stockiemuir Road, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 7HD email: a.franklin@btcv.org.uk
Wild Space	James McMahon, Kelvin Clyde Greenspace, Unit 8, Boden Street Industrial Estate, 95 Boden Street, Parkhead, Glasgow G40 3QF email: james.kcg@btconnect.com
Healthy Spaces	Gordon Dickson & Irene Goodwin, Disability Resource Centre, 74 Love Street, Paisley PA5 2EA email: aileen.forrest@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Learning Spaces	Margaret Miller, Gartmore Primary School, Main Street, Gartmore, Stirlingshire FK8 3RJ email: gartmps@stirling.gov.uk
Working Spaces	Mary Maclean, Cearns Community Development Project, Cearns Resource Centre, Cearn Shulasgeir, Stornoway email: MaryM.Cearn@wihb.scot.nhs.uk
Living Spaces	Chris Wood-Gee, Kelvin Clyde Greenspace, Unit 8, Boden Street Industrial Estate, 95 Boden Street, Parkhead, Glasgow G40 3QF email: chris.kcg@btconnect.com
Play Spaces	Helen Maclean, Culture and Leisure Services, Glasgow City Council 20 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5ES email: helen.maclean@cls.glasgow.gov.uk

Organisations/Projects attending

Aberdeen Countryside Project
Almond Valley Heritage Trust
Blantyre and North Hamilton SIP
BTCV Scotland
Bute Healthy Living Initiative
Butterfly Conservation Scotland
CARTS Greenspace
Castlemilk Environment Trust, Glasgow
Clackmannanshire Council
Cultenhove Opportunities, Stirling
Drumchapel Life, Glasgow
East Dunbartonshire Council
East Lothian Council
East Lothian Roots and Fruits
EDICT, Kirkintilloch
Forth Valley Food Links
Glasgow City Council
Gorbals Healthy Living Network
Healthy Roots Ltd, Aberdeen
Hidden Gardens, Glasgow
Highland Council
Hillhead Children's Garden, Glasgow

Home Start, Aberdeen
Kelvin Clyde Greenspace
Lothian Health Board
Mentrave Hall Trust, Fife
Myatt Project, Glasgow
North Lanarkshire Council
Phoenix Community Health Project, Greenock
Plean in Partnership
Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
St Monans Community Project, Fife
Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society
Scottish Natural Heritage
Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Stirling
South Edinburgh Healthy Living Initiative
South Lanarkshire Council
Step Up Project
Stepwell In, Inverclyde
Strathaven In Bloom
The Community Orchard, Alloa
WECAN Food Project for Fife
West Lothian Council
World War 2 Air Raid Victims, Wick



This publication has been developed in partnership by:

Greenspace Scotland is the national umbrella body for greenspace. Working through a network of local partnerships we aim to improve the quality of life of people living and working in urban communities through the creation and sustainable management of greenspace. Greenspace Scotland is core funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Big Lottery Fund.

For more information, contact:

Greenspace Scotland

Suite 3, The Commercial Centre, Stirling Enterprise Park, Stirling FK7 7RP

Phone: 01786 465934 email: info@greenspacescotland.org.uk web: www.greenspacescotland.org.uk

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens supports, promotes and represents City Farms and Community Gardens throughout the UK. We represent 59 City Farms, nearly 1,000 Community gardens, 72 school farms and a number of allotment and community orchard groups in the UK.

Find out more from:

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

The Greenhouse, Hereford Street, Bristol BS3 4NA

Phone: 0117 923 1800 email: admin@farmgarden.org.uk web: www.farmgarden.org.uk

The Scottish Community Diet Project supports local communities tackling inequalities in diet and health. We were set up in 1996 and are funded by the Scottish Executive Health Department.

More information can be obtained from:

Scottish Community Diet Project

Royal Exchange House, 100 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3DN

Phone: 0141 226 5261 email: info@scotconsumer.org.uk web: www.dietproject.org.uk

