

# **GROW KIDS** DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNINGS

Working with local people at our Community Garden

# HOW WE STARTED...

- Grow Kids was formed from a genuine need for the service
- Community need was...
- We were constantly being asked questions about growing/composting ect
- Peebles CAN need was...
- The need to transform a neglected garden into a family friendly space
- Funding...
- Small lottery fund – Communities and Families £9880 (2 staff and equipment)
- Funding advice...
- Be clear about what you want to achieve, don't over complicated, don't use fancy language for the funding bid
- Be clear and able to prove that there is a community appetite for your project

# THE FIRST SESSIONS — HOW DID IT FEEL?

- Terrifying
- Nervous
- Health and safety disaster
- Like we were out of our depth

## How Did it Look?

- Great
- Fun
- Safe
- Educational



# WHAT DID WE LEARN — EARLY ON?

- We learned very quickly that we had to be prepared for each session, including;
- Setting up tools
- Setting up a hand wash station
- Getting the book ready for the end
- Writing a plan for the hour
- Planning what they would take home
- Having an assistant
- We would need to keep records/registers
- We would need to redo our risk assessment
- We needed kids tools – and adults tool is we expected them to join in



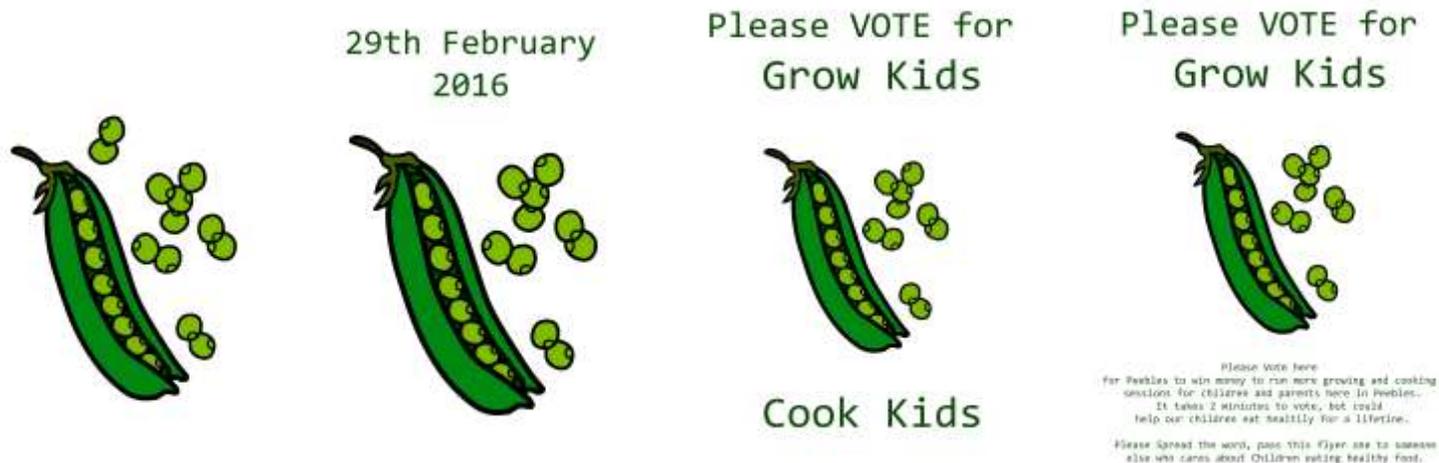
# HOW DID IT PROGRESS?... QUICKLY

- Over the course over the year we become well known for running these education sessions. How?
- Facebook – we posted photographs after every session.
- Facebook – we took enquiries via our Peebles CAN page, and set up a dedicated Grow kids page
- Never underestimate Social Media!
- We soon had a waiting list, and people were becoming more aware that they were now wanting to learn how to cook with the produce, therefore we set about writing a bid for Grow Kids - Cook Kids



# GROW KIDS COOK KIDS

- We applied for The Peoples Project with The National Lottery
- Steep learning curve – it was a voting fund, we had to get the most votes to win up to 50k
- How did we do that?
- We set up the pea pod campaigns – dropped pea pod seedlings on peoples front doors, had pea pod posters up in town, dressed up as pea pods, and went to the market with pea pod voting cards.
- We won – and that was the start of Grow Kids – Cook Kids



PEEBLES  
CAN

# PROGRESSION

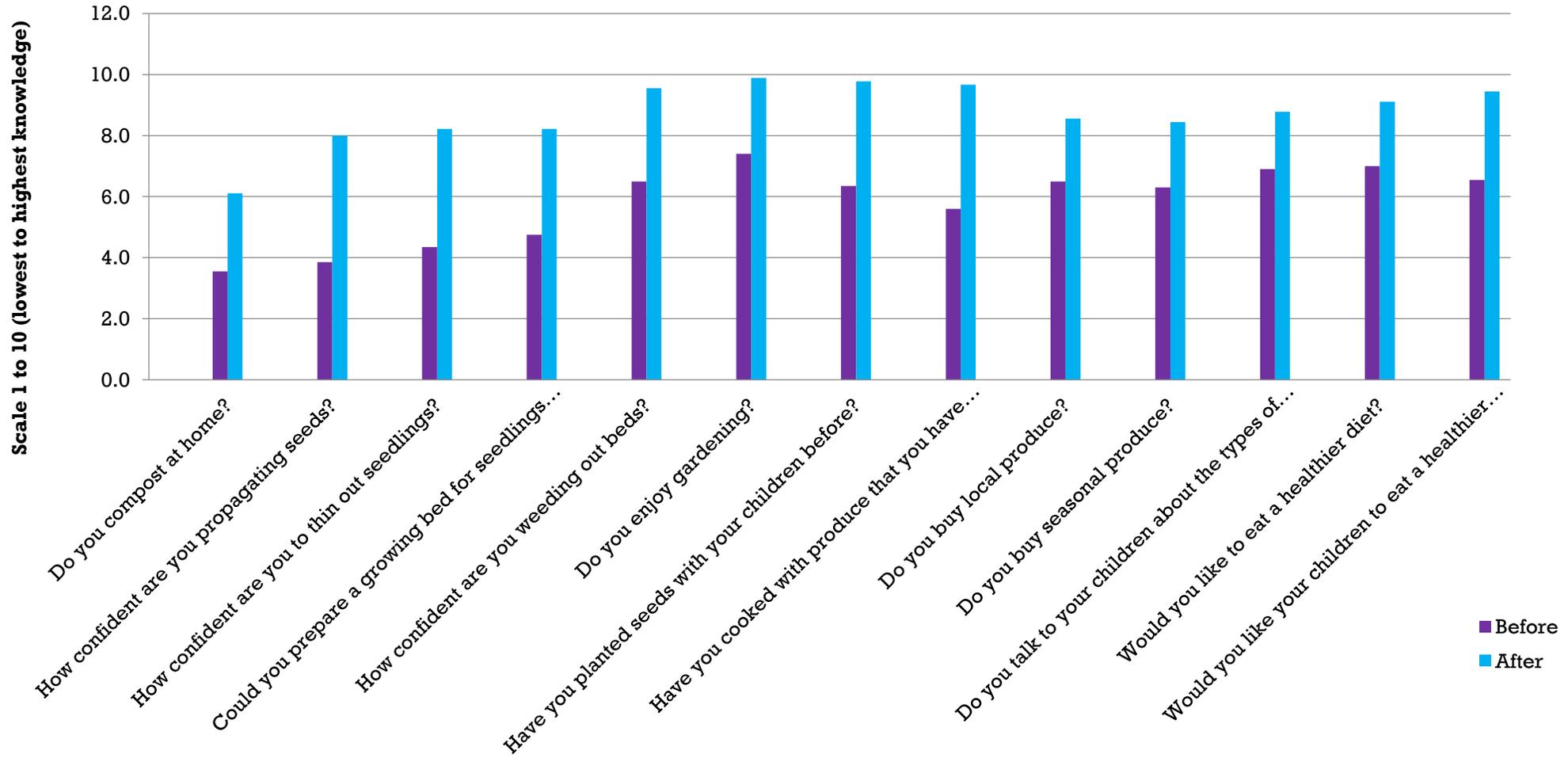
- Grow Kids Cook Kids was a massive hit – we ran 3 growing sessions and 2 cooking sessions weekly
- What did we learn?
- Staffing – getting the right people with the right hours
- Splitting up staff who didn't want to work together
- Not to overcrowd sessions
- Tailor sessions to the weather
- Make volunteers feel included in all garden activities
- Reward volunteers
- Get staff correct PPE

# MEASURING IMPACT

- All participants were surveyed at the start of the project, and at the end. Getting people to fill in the forms was tedious, but asking them to do this during sessions paid off.



# Grow Kids Survey



# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Failed to secure more lottery funding – big learning curve!
- Supplying flowers and vegetables to 3 restaurants and 1 flower shop, market stall weekly
- Now funded by CCF, running Grow Cook Build Own, a similar project but with more outreach to schools and new participants – focused on reducing carbon
- Running 1 Grow Kids session weekly, as a paid venture
- Working with more of an age range – not just families
- Currently applying for more CCF funding
- What happens if we don't get it? – We hand the garden to the community to take forward
- Are we sustainable? Do we have a future? We don't know...
- Grow Kids – yes
- Supplying restaurants – Yes
- Staff - No

# THINGS TO REMEMBER...

- Make sure you have community support – and that you can prove it to potential funders
- Apply for a couple of funds – just in case
- Employ the right people, not necessarily green fingered people, it's more important you can work with the community than grow well
- Manage a good relationship with the local council – you will need them
- Form a steering group, make the community feel part of the project
- Get out and about – tell people where and who you are
- If you can – work out where you can be sustainable
- Enjoy it, smile, be enthusiastic – it's a brilliant line of work to be in, as a volunteer, participant or member of staff...