

## Comments Analysis

### Food Growing Strategy Stakeholder Survey October 2019

The survey was undertaken as an initial step in the development of the Council's Food Growing Strategy. The sections below provide an overview of the results which have been used to feed into the first consultation draft.

#### 1. Who responded?

Individuals	146	72.64%
Community Garden	11	5.47%
On behalf of a school*	11	5.47%
Community Council	7	3.48%
Landowner	6	2.99%
Allotment Association	3	1.49%
Bloom Group	3	1.49%
Orchard Group	0	0%
Other	14	6.97%

- Most respondents were individuals with private gardens
- 68% of respondents are not currently part of a growing group
- Responses were received from across the Council area
- \*More responses were received from schools in a subsequent survey (see section no. 7) which shows an interest in food growing from the education sector

#### 2. Current provision

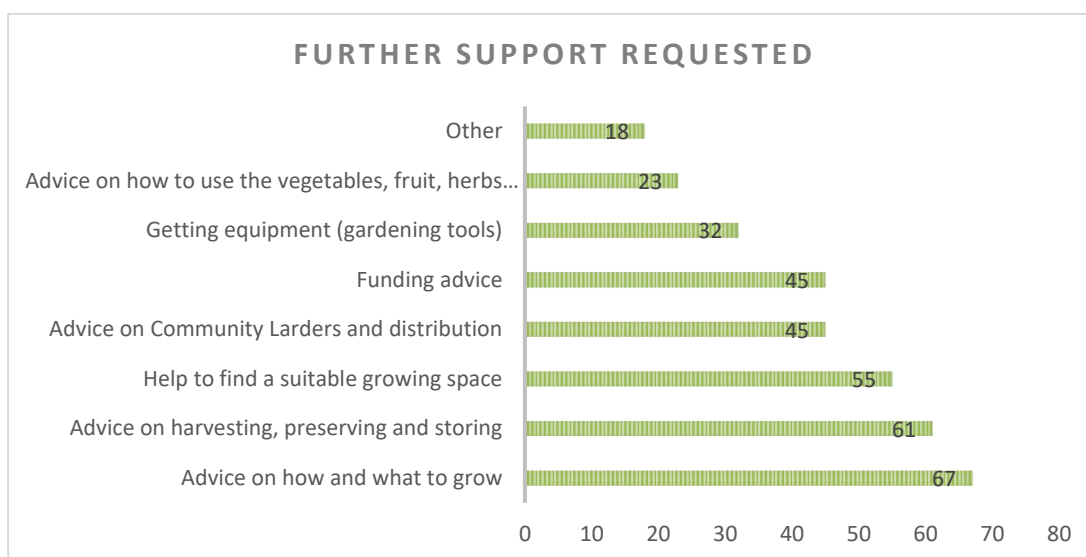
We have a record of 30 existing growing spaces across Perth and Kinross

- 14 Allotments (7 Council owned and 7 private)
- 7 Community Gardens & Fields
- 2 Community orchards and Woodlands
- 1 Urban farms
- 5 Institutional Growing Spaces
- 1 Garden Share Scheme

The **map** of existing sites is available at: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/15332/Map-of-allotments-and-growing-spaces>

### 3. Demand and barriers to growing

- 76% of respondents already grow their own herbs, vegetables or fruit
- 66% of those who already grow their own would like to grow more
- Out of those who do not currently grow their own, 12 respondents indicated that they lack gardening skills and 8 suggested that they cannot get an allotment
- 70% of respondents wanted further support to enable them to grow more or start growing
- Most respondents wanted advice on how to grow and what to do with the produce.
- 55 respondents requested help finding a growing space



Several respondents made specific requests and suggestions on how community growing could be facilitated. These are summarised under four key themes:

<i>Finding and accessing space for community growing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A better list of existing food growing groups suitable land for community growing</li> <li>• Identifying suitable land for community growing and providing details e.g. ownership, contamination</li> <li>• Encourage garden sharing</li> <li>• Repurpose leftover and underused open spaces owned by the Council</li> <li>• Identify suitable space for keeping bees</li> <li>• Aim to create a community space in each locality</li> </ul>
<i>Advice &amp; Knowledge Sharing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice on the community right to buy process and establishing community growing projects</li> <li>• More information online (e.g. how to sign up to the waiting list; how to get equipment; ways to use the produce)</li> <li>• Advice on specific topics (e.g. on indoor growing, on powering growing spaces, on sourcing material for gardening,</li> <li>• Highlight good practice examples</li> <li>• Experienced gardeners could share knowledge with rest of the community</li> <li>• Promote courses such as Garden Organic</li> </ul>

<i>Resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More volunteers for established groups</li> <li>• Paid staff (e.g. gardener / coordinator)</li> <li>• Funding for various purposes (e.g. seeds, compost)</li> <li>• Physical help to manage private gardens (e.g. cutting grass, prune trees)</li> <li>• Access to water on site</li> </ul>
<i>Other</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect farmers and landowners who are interested in developing regenerative agriculture</li> <li>• Link up with larger growing initiatives (e.g. Tomnah`a)</li> <li>• Link sustainability projects together (e.g. community composting schemes = reduced waste + more food)</li> <li>• Interest in swapping produce and buying local produce</li> <li>• Interest in community fridge &amp; community sharing initiatives</li> </ul>

#### 4. Moving forward

- 51 respondents thought that there is a desire within their community to form an allotment group or a community food growing project
- 61 respondents requested being added to the allotment waiting list
- Some respondents suggested land opportunities in their area which may be suitable for food growing\*:
  - “Grounds of Strathearn Community Campus”
  - “Disused bowling green in Moncrieff”
  - “Field in Coupar Angus”
  - “Aberdalgie Church grounds”
  - “Unused ground behind Eriskay Place, North Muirton”
  - “West Mains Avenue on the other side of the road from Struans”
  - “Land in Crook of Devon backing on to the cemetery”
  - “Former bowling green in Meigle”
  - “Perth Community Farm expansion”
  - “The field below Kincardine Park”
  - “A piece of land in Woodside currently privately owned but up for sale or lease”
  - “Within Perth West, mixed-use site”
  - “Scone Palace and/or housing site H29”
  - “Grampian View (PKC maintained open space) Coupar Angus”
  - “Community garden at Davie Park”
  - “Walled garden in the grounds of Fingask Castle, Rait”
  - “Small community growing area in Muirton Park” (established but only a few volunteers are involved)
  - “Opportunities in the Logiealmond area, Oakbank”

*\*To include any of these sites into the Food Growing Strategy as a potential growing area, they will have to go through an assessment process. Criteria will include ownership, physical aspects, location etc.*

## **5. Other comments**

- Brown bin charge can be a disincentive to growing food at home
- Gardens which are exposed and poorly drained are not suitable for growing
- Allotment fees can cost more than the value of the food grown
- Growing in gardens would require creating raised beds, away from pets
- This work could support Well-being Outcomes promoted by the Health and Social Care Partnership
- Tree cutting service could be provided by PKC at a reasonable rate
- Small businesses who provide good quality food should receive more support

## **6. Potential partners**

The following organisations & groups are currently involved in food growing related activities and expressed interest through the survey:

- Allotment Associations (e.g. Erich Allotment Association)
- Bloom Groups (e.g. Aberuthven, Bridge of Earn)
- Community Gardens & Groups (Muirton, Kinross, Perth Station, Camserney, Riverside Church)
- Westbank & Perth Community Farm
- Climate Challenge groups & Climate Cafes (e.g. Letham, Blairgowrie)
- Community Councils (e.g. Abernethy & District, North Inch & Muirton, Pitlochry, Scone, Earn)
- Schools (e.g. St John`s Academy; Murthly Primary School)
- PKC REACH team
- Southton Smallholding & Academy Organics
- Comrie Croft
- Broke not Broken, Kinross
- The Field, Dunkeld
- Giraffe
- Tombreck Farm

## **7. Further consultation with schools**

Due to the initial low response rate from the education sector, schools were approached again in early 2020 with similar questions to the original survey. 35 schools have responded to this, the majority requiring assistance to learn about food growing and set up a growing space within their own school grounds.

The additional responses received from schools will be taken into account alongside comments to the consultation draft, due to be published in spring 2020.