

Edible Cardiff

Where are we going, what do we want to do and how are we going to get there:

Aims, Needs, Barriers and Ambitions of the network

The Aims of the Network

Theme 1: Growing More Food

- 1) To increase the amount of food being grown across the city
- 2) To work with the public and private sectors to improve processes for accessing land for growing

Theme 2: Taking Action On Climate Change

- 3) To support the network to use growing as a tool to mitigate against climate change, promoting environmentally sustainable practices and actively supporting urban wildlife and habitats

Theme 3: Connecting and supporting growers

- 4) - To support collaboration between existing (community and social enterprise), and potential new growers, helping them to sustain and develop their projects to the increased benefit of their participants, their sites and the surrounding communities.
 - To increase and broaden community growers skills and knowledge of growing techniques and volunteer support and project management.

Theme 4: Involving the wider community

- 5) - To increase the number of people accessing and engaging with community food growing projects in Cardiff
 - To use food growing to connect, support and meet the needs of people in our wider communities, particularly those experiencing disadvantage

Theme 5: Networking, advocating and representation to people in power: making a case for the impact of community growing

- 6) To co-ordinate, advocate and campaign for shared concerns and interests across the network; a shared voice from the grassroots that is heard at strategic and government levels
- 7) To measure and increase the impact of community food growing on participant health and well-being

Theme 6: Promoting food growing to increase income generation

- 8) Opening gardens and green spaces to tourism and service provision opportunities
- 9) Selling local products, training and workshops, developing services

Theme 7: Bringing it all together and making it sustainable

- 10) Developing a strategy for food growing across the city and implementing it!

Feedback from the Edible Cardiff Network meetings: What we know so far...

What is working well

Theme 1- People and Wellbeing

- Diversity of people
- Fulfillment, enjoyment, sense of achievement, people achieving things, given freedom of choice
- Regular communication with community members – newsletters
- Everyone can grow potatoes!

Theme 2 – Events, learning and Open Days

- Taster days, involving wider community
- Celebrations – eg BBQ, socializing as a growing community
- Cooking workshops, more than just growing food – suppers, harvest meals, training courses, arts and crafts and literature

Theme 3 – Environment and Sustainability

- Climate change / sustainability and food is on the agenda
- Encouraging organic / chemical free growing
- Maintain a rigorous biodiversity habitat

Theme 4 – Good Practice and Innovation

- Practical solutions and designs are being built – eg. Mobile salad units at Cardiff Salad Garden, vertical green walls
- Regular inspections, monitoring of plots
- Selling products in site shop

What are our needs / barriers

Theme 1 – Communication with Council

- Communication re insecticide / spraying and when this is happening
- Communication with the council – rules and lack of flexibility
- Council fencing off land that could be used, land going to waste
- Lack of land / space / access for community growing projects

Theme 2 – Lack of/ or difficulty finding funding

- Funding for – maintenance of projects / set up costs/ staff costs/ expansion and development
- Skilled help – costs of this and whom to contact

Theme 3 – Connecting and Sharing

- Communicating with other gardens
- Finding places to cook and appropriate storage
- Health and Safety
- Involving / collaborating with allotments

Theme 5 - Volunteers

- No new generation coming through
- Attracting and keeping volunteers

Theme 6 – Wildlife / Pollinators

- Use of land – no wildlife in crop fields, no support for pollinators

What needs can the network meet together? (what can our synergy create or achieve)?

Theme 1 – Networking and sharing knowledge, skills and experience

- Platform for communication and collaboration
- Sharing success stories
- Spreading the word about benefits of community growing – health and wellbeing / addressing climate change / using food growing as a tool for healing and restoration
- Website / Facebook page
- Shared knowledge of admin procedures / GDPR (C3SC), sharing best practice and skill sets
- Shared help and professional advice with GDPR / administration / process / policies
- Taking ideas from the past – restoring old allotments, using ‘old’ knowledge rather than reinventing the wheel

Theme 2 - Food

- Sharing surplus food – redistribution

Theme 3 - Wellbeing

- Balance of people care and nature care