

# BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALLOTMENT STRATEGY

## CONSULTATION EVENT

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13<sup>th</sup> November 2013

“Agreeing how we can all work together to  
build a positive allotment community...”

Event participant

## 1. Overview

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### 1.1 Introduction and background

The event, supported by the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership, took place at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church Hall in Kempdown, Brighton on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013. It gathered together a diverse group of more than 50 participants representing allotment holders, site reps, allotment federation members and other individuals and organisations with an interest in allotments and the Allotment Strategy for Brighton and Hove. Many if not most of the participants had engaged with the on-line allotment surveys carried out by Brighton and Hove food Partnership on behalf of the Allotment Federation and the City Council, and which had over 1800 detailed responses.

The key focus of this event was to provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the outcomes of the allotment survey. The event was designed in such a way that all participants were given an opportunity to consider key emerging themes from the consultation, provide their perspective on the themes and suggest ways in which the themes could be addressed by the strategy.

To provide context the event included a brief presentation of the survey outcomes from Allotment Federation members Alan Phillips and Russ Howarth.

The event was oversubscribed and numbers were ultimately limited to 60 participants and included people who are on the waiting list as well as current plot holders. The interest in this event reflects the strength of feeling about allotments in Brighton and Hove and an enthusiasm for the collaborative process of strategy development being undertaken.

This report focuses on the outputs from the action planning component of the event. This was facilitated by the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership to allow each participant an opportunity to consider and respond to the emerging themes and add comments and suggestions based on their experience and expertise. The event used a gallery style presentation of the 10 emerging themes stuck to the walls at 10 separate work stations around the venue (each station with its own facilitator to clarify the theme and answer questions). Participants were asked to decide for themselves which themes to address and for how long according to their personal prioritisation and level of interest. This approach helped to establish a non-threatening, mutually respectful, engaging and dynamic environment where the individual opinions and suggestions of each participant were equally valued and participants were able to build on each others' thinking. The comments and opinions recorded in this report will not all be in the strategy – and indeed some people's views will inevitably contradict others – but is an important component of the range of consultation exercises undertaken to inform the strategy development.

### 1.2 The aims of the event were:

- To present key themes emerging from the allotment survey
- To understand the different perspectives on the themes
- To generate suggested actions to address the themes
- To identify key responsibilities

## 1.3 Speakers

As mentioned above a short presentation providing an overview of the survey findings was made by:

- **Alan Phillips** – Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation Chair
- **Russ Howarth** – Brighton and Hove Allotment Federation Vice-Chair

## 2. Key Outputs

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The key outputs of the event are presented as a summary of the comments that were made as written comments on post-it notes and as recorded by the facilitator during group discussion. These have been divided into three sections:

- Introductory Questions
- Emerging themes
- General discussion

### 2.1. Introductory questions

As participants arrived they were asked to consider and respond to 2 Introductory Questions:

#### A. What do you think?

##### The best thing about having an allotment is...

The question aimed to focus thinking on the positive aspects of allotments and introduce the style of the event and in particular the validation of individual perspectives.

#### Responses:

- Enjoying nature, fresh air and growing food
- Physical activity – keeps you fit
- Learning new skills
- Giving and getting encouragement
- Growing and eating local, seasonal, fresh food
- Being part of an honourable tradition that defies the idea of land ownership
- A sense of achievement
- Having space to grow food and find freedom

“My allotment is the only reason I leave my flat. If it were not for my plot I would vegetate indoors”

## B. What do you hope this event will achieve?

The question aimed to establish an understanding of participants' expectations against which the event could be evaluated.

### Responses:

- Better understanding
- Innovative solutions
- How and where to get relevant information
- A wider perspective ... rather than just my own plot
- Bright ideas on the future of allotments
- 2-way communication – input of allotmenters into the strategy and policy and its implementation
- Making the voices of present and future plot holders heard and count
- An effective communication link between allotment holders, City Parks, City Clean, Brighton and Hove Food Partnership and local food growers
- A new allotment strategy which is equitable, future-proof and meets the needs of the majority
- Agreeing how we can all work together to build a positive allotment community focussed on protecting the environment

## 2.2 Emerging themes

Each work station presented a distinct theme emerging from the survey adopting the same format at each station to allow easier engagement with the verification process. Participants were asked to:

- Read the **THEME** and the accompanying illustrative examples and statements
- Consider whether they **AGREE or DISAGREE** that the issue was relevant, important and tallied with their own experience of allotments
- Read what other participants have already written and either:
  - add a tick if you agree with the comment or
  - add any new comments or additional statements on post-it notes
- Read the **QUESTIONS** and add comments to the chart headed **SUGGESTED ACTIONS** and **WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED**.

The key outcomes are presented in the 10 tables that follow. Comments have been simplified and amalgamated where necessary to avoid duplication and add clarity.

For each theme the number of AGREE and DISAGREE comments is recorded in **red** to provide an indication of the importance or relevance of the issue to participants.

Finally each participant was given 3 red dots each to indicate which 3 suggested actions they thought should be the highest priority for the strategy to include. The number of dots for each action is given in **blue**.

Note that the large number of actions generated meant that this is an approximation, as not everyone got to read all of the suggested actions, however it is a useful indicator to consider in developing the strategy alongside the 1800 survey responses and other consultation exercises.

## THEME A

### New plot holders need better support.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- We know that lots of new plot holders give up in their first year – this means that plots don't get worked and neighbours have problems with weeds; and people on the waiting list are frustrated by seeing unworked plots
  - New plot holders said they had problems with the poor condition of many plots especially in terms of rubbish
  - 77% of new plot holders said that whilst on the waiting list they would have liked to have been offered opportunities to learn about growing on an allotment
  - 64% of new plot holders said they would like the support of a more experienced grower
  - A large proportion of new plot holders say they would have liked information about tool shares, manure, sheds etc.
- "When you get a new plot you get sent a list of the all the things you shouldn't do but no one tells you what you should do"*

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **17 comments**

- More than just friendly neighbour allotmenters
- Usually works OK
- Turnover: receiving plot to leaving it is much too rapid

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why **2 comments**

- Hard to predict who will succeed and who won't
- May be more to do with other life issues – not growing skills
- Need to be careful not to be too prescriptive – allow for individual creativity

#### QUESTIONS

How can new plot holders be better supported?

Who should be involved in making this happen?

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- Need to become part of the community – talks and **short courses** (clearing, plot design etc.) should be offered
- Experience with land should be a criterion when allocating plots – be a helper for a year
- Collect more in depth info. about needs and experience whilst on waiting list
- Particularly need help/advice to clear plots
- Arrange **plot clearance days** – with tools, help, a skip, transport available
- Tools needed – especially for clearing
- Give out allotments in the spring – not winter, and make fees due in the winter
- **Taster days** at an allotment – try it out before you sign up **7 votes**
- Offer '**taster years**' – allow plot-holders a full year to get going
- **Mentoring** during first year – buddy scheme **6 votes**
- Use flags to show you can help – ad hoc **1 vote**
- Introduction to other tenants when they start
- Other allotment holders should give advice
- Offer willing allotmenters to be available on certain dates – visit established plots
- Do this in a more organised way – less ad hoc

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Other willing allotment holders
- Site rep to put you in touch with mentors
- Site rep to follow up new plot holders – check all is well
- Site rep to co-ordinate and organise gatherings of tenants

## THEME B

### Allotment Associations and Site Reps need better support and their roles and responsibilities need to be better understood

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- 51% of people said they thought their site would benefit from an association – 42% weren't sure
- Currently 7 sites have associations [check]
- Most people (65%+) said they found their site rep easy to contact and helpful
- There is some confusion about the role of site reps with regards to the difference between helping to manage the site and representing the views of people on their site

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **11 comments**

- Site reps need to know who to ask to get info about the role
- They should be re-elected each year
- They need to help plot holders meet each other
- Balance needed between encouraging community and maintaining standards for everyone

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why

#### QUESTIONS

**How can the roles and responsibilities of Allotment Associations and Site Reps be clarified and supported?**

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- **Site reps need to actively visit the site and plot holders** - If ill they should stand down - Elected annually. **5 votes**
- Informal get-togethers run by site rep
- Too much expected of site reps – **site committees could be established to share the work load and responsibilities**
- **Site shop** a good idea and community asset
- Site reps and associations need to match the needs of the site – not too prescriptive/dictatorial
- **Draft a clear job description to circulate, discuss, agree** – more likely people would volunteer for the role
- **Site rep induction/induction pack – clarify duties so everyone knows. 3 votes**
- **Training for site reps** – including people skills
- Proper introduction to new plot holders

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Site reps
- Allotment Association
- Allotment site committees

## THEME C

### People should be offered a choice of different plot sizes.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- The majority of people (82.4%) thought their current land needs were of the 'right amount'
- Overall, there was stronger agreement towards current plot holders having the opportunity to change plot sizes
- Current plot holders were less in favour of people on the waiting list being able to choose than current plot holders being able to change, but they still supported choice
- Of the people answering the waiting list survey if given the choice 20% said they would like a micro-bed (4m x 5m), 55% a half plot and 18% a full plot (the remainder were interested in a community plot)

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **19 comments**

- To reflect different time and skill
- Vital that people only take on what they can deal with
- 'Newbies' offer – ½ plot with eventual offer of a whole plot – may edit out those who can't cope with the work
- The number of plots managed by an individual should be discussed

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why **2 comments**

- If a plot is split it is difficult to return it to a full plot in the future
- If everyone starts with ½ plot or less eventually there could be no full plots left. Full plot is needed to grow veg and fruit all year. **4 votes**

#### QUESTIONS

##### How could this work in practice?

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- Experience/knowledge as a criterion when allocating plots
- Need more choice and better marketing and information
- **Advise new plot holders** on workload and demands of a plot **3 votes**
- **Start as co-workers**
- **More awareness** of what different plot sizes involve **1 vote**
- People with full plots could [voluntarily] relinquish part of it to someone on the waiting list
- **Open day - People should be able to see plot size before taking one on. 1 vote**
- Offer ¼, ½, full plots or start with a communal plot – people unsure of their capacity when they start
- **Put size you want on your application form**
- ½ plot holders should be offered full plot after a trial period **1 vote**
- **½ plot only for new plot holders 1 vote**

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Site reps should help new plotholders choose appropriate size and facilitate plot swaps when different plots are available
- Site reps to broker co-worker relationships to introduce new holders to the work involved
- Site rep to offer choice of plot sizes at letting

## THEME D

**It is particularly important for allotments to be accessible and available to those who would most benefit including people with mental health issues, unemployed people and those with a disability.**

### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- Most people saw themselves in generally good or better health, and the allotment appeared to have a powerful impact on their overall health and happiness. 43.5% rated this as 10 out of 10 or very important.
- Those people with disabilities saw greater benefit for all seven of the 'benefits of allotments' that were listed.
- Unemployed people rated their health as the poorest of all employment groups, but they provided one of the highest ratings for the allotment acting as an important factor in their health and happiness.

### AGREE – and explanation of why **10 comments**

- The most important objective
- How to reach the people who would benefit most?
- My small raised plot for people with disabilities has made it possible for me to have a vegetable growing experience. I couldn't have had an allotment otherwise.

### DISAGREE – and explanation of why **7 comments**

- Who decides who would benefit most? Maximise availability for all
- Accessible to all but not prioritised

## QUESTIONS

**How can we ensure availability / accessibility to those who would benefit most?**

### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- **Liaise with MIND, Threshold Women Survivors Network, and Brighton Unemployed Centre**
- Promote allotments in poorer areas
- Encourage veg growing in places other than allotments
- Additional plots and other growing opportunities
- Discrete funding for veg growing with special needs groups
- Reduced fees for those on benefits
- Make smaller plots available
- **Charities to be approached to sponsor and/or run community plots for vulnerable groups 1 vote**
- Group plots and lower fees
- Each site should have a sense of community and belonging to support those in difficult circumstances
- Tailor plots to cater for diverse needs **1 vote**

### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Food Partnership to open additional growing opportunities and seek funding for special needs groups **1 vote**
- Brighton & Hove Food Partnerships outreach programme
- Explore Business sponsorship
- Identify a designated NHS mental health co-ordinator to liaise with allotment users **1 vote**
- Better communication between Council, Allotment Associations, Health Providers and the Voluntary Sector

## THEME E

### Support for allotment users needs to be provided more efficiently / cost effectively.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- 46% of people think the cost of allotments is about right, 24% good value for money and 21% excellent value for money (9% poor or very poor value for money)
- 36.5% of the survey sample were aware that there is a difference of approx £51,000 a year between plot rents and costs met by Council funds – 63.5% were not aware.
- Around one-third strongly disagreed that the rents should be increased to cover the difference between rent income and costs
- Answers show there is support for plot holders doing more routine maintenance on sites if organised in a fair way

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **6 comments**

- Hardly ever see anything good happen for the rent we pay.
- Effective voluntary work needs significant organisation and maybe training
- People are vulnerable to burn-out

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why

#### QUESTIONS

#### How can services for allotment users be provided more efficiently / cost effectively?

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- More voluntary inputs
- Provide info on sources of cheap wood, leaf mould, manure, shed roofing etc. **1 vote**
- Some people should pay a bit more
- New plot holders could pay for some basic services – putting up a shed, fencing etc.
- Allotment federation could run all plots and be paid from the rent. **2 votes**
- Explore charity and private sector financial support
- We need Council support for basic services/maintenance on allotments
- More awareness of what needs doing and possibly some training
- Allotments to become a self-funding enterprise – what is their aim, who is running it? Should the whole definition and structure be reconsidered?
- Some self-management possible – more partnerships – plan for each site **1 vote**

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Some self-management
- Site by site plans
- Allotment Federation to run the plots

## THEME F

### The sense of community on allotment sites should be developed.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- 76% of people believe that the benefit of an allotment is meeting and socialising with different people
- About half of new plot holders would have liked the support of a more experienced grower
- People on the waiting list should be better informed about the process and be offered opportunities to learn about allotment care and management
- 76% of respondents had experienced a problem on their site including broken locks, problems with dogs, problems with shared water, theft and car parking
- 94% of respondents say they think their site is a friendly place, 72% say they feel part of a community on their site.

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **17 comments**

- New plot holders given advice – helps develop relationships
- Mentoring – chance for people waiting to get involved
- Regular open days work well – “when there’s bunting there’s cake!”

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why **1 comment**

- Sense of community is already good – leave it to flower

#### QUESTIONS

##### How can the allotment community be developed?

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- Set up Allotment Associations where they don’t already exist
- **Allotment shop** as a community focus **1 vote**
- Experienced allotmenters running 2-3hr Saturday **workshops**
- **Website / forum** to match plot holders with co-workers
- ‘Buddy’ system for new tenants
- E mail sharing between tenants **1 vote**
- Encourage **food swaps, seed swaps**
- Plots for community groups
- Keep it voluntary
- **Regular site rep days / times**
- **Events and open days 2 votes**
- Barbeques, picnics and meetings on site
- Display site reps name and contact info on site **1 vote**
- On-site community hut for gatherings and events **1 vote**
- Set up joint purchasing schemes **1 vote**

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

No comments

## THEME G

### Site rules need to be consistent, fair and enforced appropriately.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- Consistency came up often as a complaint about the way the rules were enforced both within sites and between sites
- Questions have been raised about rules for Community plots and if these should be the same or different?
- Only 7.8% of people disagreed that there should be rules on how plots were used

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **20 comments**

- Same rules for standard plots and community plots
- Council should enforce existing rules
- Consistency leads to fairness
- Particularly important to enforce rules when plots aren't cultivated and waiting list is growing
- Only make rules that are capable of being enforced
- Based on common sense
- Some rules different for different sites

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why

#### QUESTIONS

How should site rules be revised and how often?

How to ensure that enforcement is fair  
(e.g. between different plots and different sites?)

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- **Be flexible** – not all rules relevant to all plots (sites?) **1 vote** Be site specific
- Cultivation % is highest priority
- **Prioritise rules** – if not so serious could be dealt with by site rep **1 vote**
- Be consistent whatever size the plot is **1 vote**
- Clarify rules on e.g. fires, poisons etc. **1 vote**
- Provide a warning before taking action **1 vote**
- Council should follow up on 'weed notices' and evict tenants not cultivating their plots **1 vote**
- Council need to know more before enforcing rules
- Council have set out the rules mainly so they need to enforce them

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Process of revision for the rules – esp re wildlife areas, ponds, polytunnels – Plot holders and Allotment Federation
- Council and plot-holders to re-frame the rules **3 votes**
- Enforcement by the Council – not the Federation
- Site reps need to work with their site committee to agree site rules **4 votes**
- Site reps to enforce basic rules

## THEME H

### Site security is important but shouldn't give a negative impression.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- Suggestions around improving site security – the most popular suggestion (subject to funding becoming available) was improved **fencing** with the suggestion both that the fence should be higher and have barbed wire on top and that fence maintenance is lacking.
- Theft / damage vandalism had been experienced by one third of respondents – 31 people experienced arson
- More involvement of the Community Police Team was also suggested

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **14 comments**

- Balancing welcoming with safe and secure
- It's meant to give a negative impression for vandals and thieves
- Good security encourages new plot holders 1 vote
- Fences important
- Living fences (thorn bushes, roses, Pyracantha) good idea
- Depends on proximity to residential areas

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why **4 comments**

- Not seen as a problem at: Roedale Valley, North Neville
- Only becomes an issue when it happens to you (burnt shed and stolen tools)

#### QUESTIONS

How to balance being a welcoming and attractive site with being secure?

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- CCTV
- Engage with those that perpetrate malicious action – involve them in growing at the allotment
- Site rep and plot holders should meet to discuss issues and actions – site by site basis **1 vote**
- Use Hawthorn and brambles **1 vote**
- Give a plot to an 'in situ' ranger – with a dog – with shelter to provide some security **1 vote**
- Look at existing models of community policing **1 vote**
- Solar-powered security lighting/sensor
- Improve existing lighting where possible - Council

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Council and Allotment Federation to maintain fences
- Site reps to work towards bringing plot holders together – so they know who's who and recognise each other **2 votes**

## THEME I

### Sustainable practices should be encouraged and supported at allotment sites.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- 95% of people make their own compost, 66% water harvest and 57% garden in ways to reduce water
- 74% say they grow organically
- 47% of people get to their allotment by car 45% walk or go by bike

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **17 comments**

- Making allotments self-sustaining and biodiverse maximises their potential whilst minimising their impact
- Meeting point for wildlife and cultivation (Roedale) – a balancing act that needs to be encouraged
- Esp more support for ‘bee-friendly’ plants and flowers **1 vote**
- How does this fit with cultivation rules – wild flowers/wild areas discouraged

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why

#### QUESTIONS

How can sustainable practices be encouraged and supported – such as rainwater harvesting and encouraging biodiversity?

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- **Requires education** – talks by experts to all plot holders via site rep/Allotment Federation – as well as a voluntary option
- Encourage insect-friendly plants – give people ideas **2 votes**
- Sell rainwater harvesting kits in the shop **1 vote**
- Provide advice and facilities at sites
- Info on companion planting, pesticides, seed varieties
- Regular forum for plot holders with speakers from Food partnership and owners or local organic farms
- Allow bee-hives **1 vote**
- Site-specific advice, suggestions, guidance **1 vote**
- Training sessions – volunteers – simple self-build and integrating sustainable technology
- More and regular seed and seedling swap events to share costs and freecycle, email groups, website **5 votes**
- Don’t just encourage it – include sustainability/ biodiversity practices in the rules
- Site reps and plot holders to constructively advise new plot holders to be more sustainable

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Council supported advice and training
- Site reps to be involved
- Involve Brighton University expertise

## THEME J

### Community plots should be encouraged and supported at allotment sites.

#### ILLUSTRATIVE STATEMENTS ARISING FROM THE SURVEY

- There are over 30 community plots **[check]** on allotments in Brighton & Hove
- At least 13 of those plots are for particular beneficiary groups for example: young people in supported housing, vulnerable adults, carers for the long-term sick.
- Community allotments provide an opportunity for individuals who are interested in growing on an allotment but cannot commit to the time involved.
- Community plots provide a social and supportive role for individuals, especially when their support needs are higher.

#### AGREE – and explanation of why **16 comments**

- At least one plot per site split into small beds for those on waiting list
- Limit total number to avoid water sharing problems etc.
- Good for those with less time and energy and as an introduction – incubator
- Good for promoting allotments – letting as many different people as possible engage with growing
- Good for those who couldn't manage a whole plot
- Helps to get people off the waiting list and helps them learn what the work entails

#### DISAGREE – and explanation of why **2 comments**

- Could be a recipe for conflict esp if advertising micro-plots to people on the waiting list

#### QUESTIONS

How can community plots be encouraged and supported?

How to clarify the role and function of community plots?

Could community plots be included in overall site management?

#### SUGGESTED ACTIONS – what needs to happen

- Needs publicising **1 vote**
- Circulate info to potentially interested groups
- Advertise to the waiting list and on-line forums and community centres

#### RESPONSIBILITIES – who needs to be involved

- Council and Food Partnership could advertise Community Plots
- Council and Food Partnership to broker relationships with other organisations (as it already does)
- Council to free up more land for allotment sites generally

## 2.3 What's missing?

Participants identified the following themes and suggested actions as missing from the verification process:

- People on the waiting list need to be updated each year on their situation (position on the list etc.)
- The application form should include information on the size of plot you are interested in and whether or not you consider yourself to be disabled
- People on the waiting list should be considered as part of the allotment community as well
- Encourage seed saving circles and develop skills with links to Seedy Sunday
- Consider possibility of specialist sites: organic, community etc.
- The drop-out rate – needs to be addressed
- Sites need to be better located within neighbourhoods – not isolated
- Larger Associations could include smaller sites in their meetings
- Limit the number of plots people can have – suggested no more than one full plot per household
- Rights for co-workers
- Priority for those who don't have a garden at home
- Children on plots: facilities, rules
- What is the primary purpose of an allotment? Need to acknowledge this in the regulations
- Empty/abandoned/uncultivated plots!

## 2.4 Overview discussion

Following the verification session participants were asked to consider what they thought what the key outcomes of the process had been and what if any issues should be focused on as a priority. Inevitably this concluding discussion did not pick up on all the points made and should be seen as a set of 'pointers' not a definitive list

### **Key outcomes and suggestions:**

- The Council's willingness to engage in this collaborative approach towards development of the Allotment Strategy helps overcome the past frustration and negativity
- There needs to be a continuing improvement in communication and mutual trust between allotments and the Council – 2-way
- Allotments need to learn more from each other
- Council need to hear more about key health benefits especially for groups who are difficult to engage with
- Council are committed to the collaborative process of Strategy development
- Need to establish stronger links with the Universities
- Establish a hierarchy of rules: some for site reps to enforce, some for the Council to enforce, some to be removed
- Need to match rules and their enforcement to the capacity of the allotments service, site reps and Allotment Federation – and acknowledge that resources are diminishing
- Possibility of exploring greater self-management – but needs to be on a site-by-site basis
- Rules revision will be happening
- Important to acknowledge the hard work of those involved in developing the Allotment Strategy.

### 3. Evaluation

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As participants left the event they were asked to say how the event had been for them. Responses were given under five headings:

#### **Something I liked**

- Good process – allowed all points of view to be heard
- Meeting so many nice people
- Good range of issues/people and space for discussion
- Very well facilitated
- Great format for a meeting – generated lots of positive ideas
- Refreshments

#### **Something I learned**

- The Council Allotment Officer doesn't have an allotment – should be a condition of the job!
- Lots of common ground
- Not all plots are the same
- A lot more work to be done but its looking hopeful
- Facts, figures and opportunities for engaging with the Allotments Association

#### **Something I will go and do**

- Join an Association on another site as there isn't one on mine
- I will work to incorporate allotments into all my future developments across the city wherever possible and improve the overarching allotment/food/growing strategy within the city
- Try to get a better site rep
- Read more about local land laws, policies etc.
- Try and develop/encourage community spirit
- See if a mentoring scheme could happen on our site

#### **Something that should happen as a result of the event**

- More get-togethers like this
- Events for those on the waiting list

#### **Something I didn't like**

- Didn't represent allotment holder diversity
- I would have liked Council Allotment Officer to speak

## Participants

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Alan Amos	Russ Howarth	Trish Stockbridge
Chris Bailey	Jackie Jones	Mia Vrachimis
Ian Bailey	Jan Jonker	David Warne
Pat Bowen	ess kore	Nigel Webster
Allan Brown	Berenika Kudanowska	Saskia Wesnigk
Dominic Bryden	Nick Love	Tom Williams
Mark Carroll	Heather Mayall	Victoria Williams
Mark Carroll	Nicola McGinty	Maureen Winder
Edward Chapman	Gillian Mckenna	
Lynne Chester	Ben Messer (facilitator)	
Liz Collard	Stephen Miller	
Catherine Considine	Kate Mills	
David Cooper	Clem Mlambo	
Jess Crocker	Gerry Nevill	
Elaine Crush	Emily O'Brien	
Alison Dean	Rachael Palmer	
Councillor Lizzie Deane	Koula Papanastasiou	
Shana Dilworth	Christina Pepper	
Jan Furness	Lou Perrotta	
Jane Griffin	Alan Phillips	
Daphne Groves	Simon Powell	
Barbara Hardcastle	Todd Ratcliff	
Kate Harrison	Julia Reeves	
Susanna Hawkins	Councillor Alan Robins	
Richard Hawks	Marie Sansford	
Rose Hedley	Alastair Seewoonarain	
	Helen Starr-Kedde	