

West Dunbartonshire Council

Food Growing Strategy

2020 - 2025

Inspiring people to make West Dunbartonshire the best Community Food growing and Garden location in Scotland

November 2020



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1 Executive Summary

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises the benefits associated with community food growing, and is committed to developing a strategic approach to facilitate food growing activities throughout West Dunbartonshire.

This strategy has been developed to encourage and empower people to take an active role in producing and growing their own food. This has real benefits for the health and fitness of our Society and Environment.

It will also contribute to the Scottish Government's goal of Scotland becoming a Good Food Nation by enabling people from all walks of life to enjoy and learn about nutritious and healthy food.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires each Local Authority to prepare a Food Growing Strategy for its area. West Dunbartonshire Council Food Growing Strategy identifies land that may be used as allotment sites. The strategy also identifies other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describes how the Council intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Stakeholder engagement has identified what allotment and community food growing provision already exists in West Dunbartonshire. This has allowed us to capture the current status, management arrangements and potential interest from community groups and individuals in food growing.

There is an increasing demand from the local community looking for advice and assistance with food growing activities.

The Food Growing Strategy Action Plan outlines how the Council will work with partner organisations and communities to develop and support community food growing throughout the Authority.

For more information on Community Food Growing activities in West Dunbartonshire please contact:

Greenspace Section
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Dumbarton
G82 2RH

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Email: wdc.greenspace@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

2 Forward

“I am delighted to introduce West Dunbartonshire’s Food Growing Strategy, which outlines our plans to enhance and support food growing opportunities across our area over the next five years.

We know that food growing is in high demand in West Dunbartonshire, and our existing allotments and community gardens are extremely popular. In our budget earlier this year, we committed to spending £500,000 to develop new growing sites and already, we are seeing work progressing across the authority at Clydebank Community Sport Hub; Melfort Community Park and Townend Road in Dumbarton.

The aim of this strategy is to improve our growing facilities even further by working with communities, partners and stakeholders to ensure we can expand opportunities for residents to grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs. Perhaps when considering growing food, many people think of allotments. In fact, there are many different ways to start on the journey to growing your own food, from community gardens to using backcourt space to potting on your windowsill.

This strategy highlights the different options for establishing and growing, as well as encouraging residents from all walks of life who have an interest to get involved. As a Council, we know there are multiple benefits to food growing, both to our communities and the environment.

Successfully growing a crop of fruit and vegetables is well known to have a positive impact on both mental health and physical wellbeing, as is the active social side of participating in a community allotment or garden.

In addition, ensuring good food-growing opportunities are available to all residents will help to reduce food and health inequalities in our area.

Producing food locally has environmental benefits too, reducing the miles food travels from field to plate and also creating biodiversity areas for birds, bees and insects to thrive.

I am confident that these plans will allow us to continue to empower our residents to take an active role in growing their food and encourage them to get involved. I look forward to seeing it progress.”

Councillor Iain McLaren, Convener of Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Development.

3 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the strategy is to increase the opportunities for West Dunbartonshire residents to access and enjoy the pleasures and health benefits associated with growing your own food.

An action plan is contained in APPENDIX 1 outlining the objectives that have been set out to meet the aims of the strategy. These objectives include:

- Identify land potentially suitable for allotments and other food growing areas within West Dunbartonshire
- Help our communities to develop the skills to grow their own food and make healthy lifestyle choices by working together with community partners including existing gardening projects and third sector organisations
- Ensure that the strategy is embedded into future local development planning and that community food growing areas become a consideration in the determination of planning applications
- Improve communications with current partners and the wider community about the potential for food growing within the area
- Regularly review the Food Growing Strategy and update as required

4 Policy Context

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: The Scottish Government is committed to communities being supported to do things for themselves, and to people having their voices heard in the planning and delivery of services.

The Act received Royal Assent on 24th July 2015 and came into force on 1st April 2018. Part 9 of the Act, which updates and modifies allotments legislation, was developed through discussions with stakeholders in the wider public, private, third and community sectors and also through consultation.

The Act repeals allotments legislation dating from 1892, simplifies provisions and acknowledges and endorses the rising interest in community growing.

Part 9 of the Act lays a number of statutory duties on Local Authorities, including:

- a duty to maintain an allotment waiting list
- when certain trigger points of demand are reached, a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure: (1) that the number of people on their waiting list for an allotment does not exceed half the total number of allotments owned and leased by the Authority; and (2) that a person on the list does not wait more than five years for an allotment
- a requirement to make allotment site regulations
- a duty to develop a Food Growing Strategy. This includes the identification of land for allotments and other community growing and describing how the Authority will meet demand for such land

Section 119 of the Act requires Local Authorities to include the following in their Food Growing Strategies:

- land identified in the area that could be used for allotment sites
- other land identified in the Local Authority area which could be used by a community to grow vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers
- a description of how the Authority intends to increase the provision of allotments or other land for community growing; and
- when detailing how the Authority intends to increase the provision of allotment sites and community growing areas of land in its area as it is required to take reasonable steps under section 112 (1), a description of whether and how this will apply to communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage

Each Local Authority must publish the Food Growing Strategy it prepares on a website or by other electronic means.

Section 120 of the Act requires every local authority to review its food-growing strategy. This review must be carried out within 5 years of the date of the

publication of the initial food-growing strategy, and every five years thereafter. When the local authority decides to change its strategy following a review, the local authority is required to publish an amended strategy electronically.

For the purposes of the Act, an allotment is land owned or leased by a local authority for use by people to grow vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers on a non-profit basis.

The Scottish Government's Vision for National Wellbeing, contained in the National Performance Framework sets out 11 National Outcomes together with a suite of National Indicators and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The framework seeks to build a more successful and inclusive Scotland and sets out the way in which progress can be measured. It describes a vision for national wellbeing in Scotland across a range of economic, social and environmental factors.

The goals of this food-growing strategy will work towards aiding the achievement of some of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes, and National Indicators and UN Sustainable Development Goals, as set out in the National Performance Framework, such as:

- We are healthy and active;
- We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment;
- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.

Over the next 5 years West Dunbartonshire Council, through this food-growing strategy will aim to achieve the following key goals which will meet a number of National Outcomes, National Indicators and UN Sustainable Development Goals:

i. West Dunbartonshire Council will underpin the National Outcome "We are healthy and active" by:

- Taking steps to make food-growing opportunities available to all residents of West Dunbartonshire to improve their health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities;
- Helping to alleviate food poverty and raising awareness about the benefits of food-growing to mental and physical well-being through public engagement and encouraging uptake of food-growing opportunities.

This underpins a number of the "We are healthy and active" National Indicators, including mental wellbeing, healthy weight, and physical activity.

ii. West Dunbartonshire Council will underpin the National Outcome "We value, enjoy and protect our environment" by:

- Providing opportunities for local production of food through all forms of community growing/grow-your-own which will reduce carbon mileage of food;
- Encouraging biodiversity, contributing to a Low Carbon Scotland, encouraging climate change mitigation through changed behaviours, improving soil condition and carbon retention in the soil through appropriate food-growing site design, practice and management, signposting to training and learning opportunities, and encouraging behavioural change, which will all contribute to protecting our environment.
- Avoiding negative impacts, for example by the excessive removal of existing pollinator species or hedgerows, loss of ponds or wetland areas, creation of hard-standing parking areas etc., or creating a heightened risk for contaminated land by introducing activities (such as permitting food-growing on the land) on areas already affected by contamination. Local authorities should take appropriate site-specific steps to limit such negative impacts.

This underpins a number of the "We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment" National Indicators, including visits to the outdoors, waste generated, biodiversity, climate action, and life on land.

iii. West Dunbartonshire Council will underpin the National Outcome "We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe" by:

- Making all of our allotments and other food-growing sites well managed, accessible by public transport and active travel, and community empowered with quality facilities, as far as is practicable;
- Making the supply of allotment and other food-growing sites transparent to all and compliant with the provisions of the Act;
- Encouraging all forms of community-led enterprise and/or social enterprise through making available and encouraging uptake of food-growing opportunities.

This underpins a number of the "We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe" National Indicators, including perceptions of local area, loneliness, access to green space, and social capital.

5 Consultation

In line with the ethos of the Community Empowerment Act, we have ensured that consultation will play a major part in the success of this Food Growing Strategy by setting actions that work towards what people really want.



Growing West Dunbartonshire

Growing West Dunbartonshire are a collection of 65 local community food growing groups set up in 2016 to spread the message and share the benefits of local grown food.

The group have worked with West Dunbartonshire Council Greenspace section to secure the views of a wide range of interested parties. This approach will allow us to target the provision of food growing activities in a productive and sustainable manner.

Growing West Dunbartonshire held a series of stakeholder engagement workshops to gather information from interested parties on what they would like to see in the Food Growing Strategy.

The results of these events can be summarised as follows:

- WDC should ensure that the Local Development Plan identifies land that is suitable for the purposes of Allotments or growing spaces and pollinator corridors.

- Provide a register identifying derelict ground and greenspace deemed fit for community food growing activities, orchards, soft fruit forests and herb corridors.
- Encouraging developers through the planning process to include space for community gardens and food growing within new developments.
- Growing spaces should be identified and mapped within the West Dunbartonshire Open space audit and shared with the community via WDC website and Growing West Dunbartonshire network.
- Ensure developers include space for community gardens and food growing within new developments.
- Capital funding should be allocated to community food growing activities across West Dunbartonshire from 2020 to 2025.
- Continue to Support and develop the Community Involvement in Neighbourhoods project.
- Provide resources for the delivery of a food growing training programme
- Establish Learn and grow and Growing West Dunbartonshire as strategic partners.
- Report allotment waiting lists via Council website and Growing West Dunbartonshire.
- Map demand, both current and anticipated future demand to take account of planned housing developments etc.
- Assign resources to the delivery of a community led, Learn and Grow healthy eating campaign integrating education centres, health centres and community organisations.
- Connect the school holiday program to the aims of the Community food growing strategy and the community networks and support.
- Facilitate an annual stakeholder community food growing review.
- Development of a community food growing directory.
- Resource a community wide awareness program delivered by Growing West Dunbartonshire increasing communities understanding of and capacity to support and deliver the food growing action plans.
- Deliver an annual Growfest celebration event incorporating a Community Eco Award.



Allotment Waiting List

As part of the Food Growing Strategy stakeholder engagement, West Dunbartonshire Council carried out a survey of 270 residents that make up the Council's allotments waiting list.

A total of 101 responses have been received .

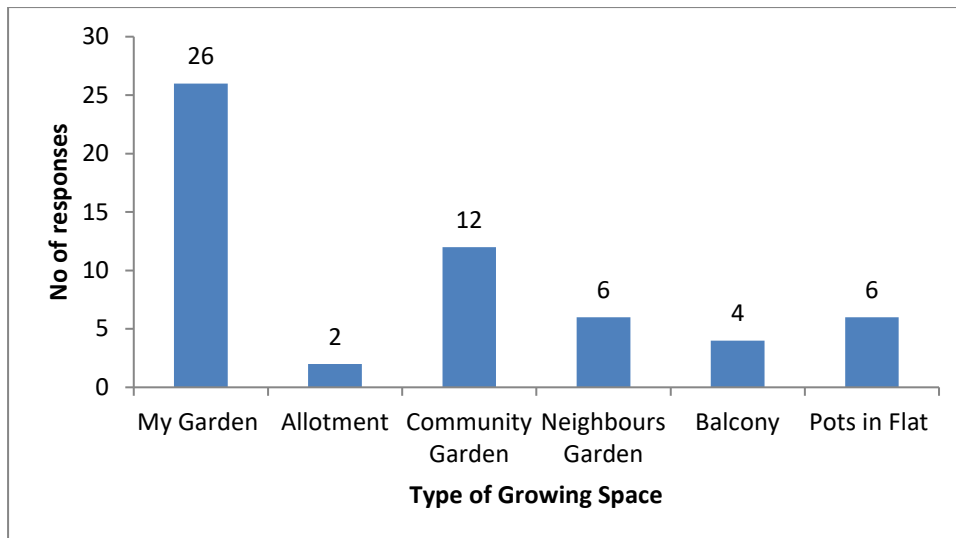
The responses to the survey are as follows:

1. Do you grow your own fruit and vegetables?

Yes 56 No 45

2. If you have answered yes to question 1, what kind of space do you currently have the use of.

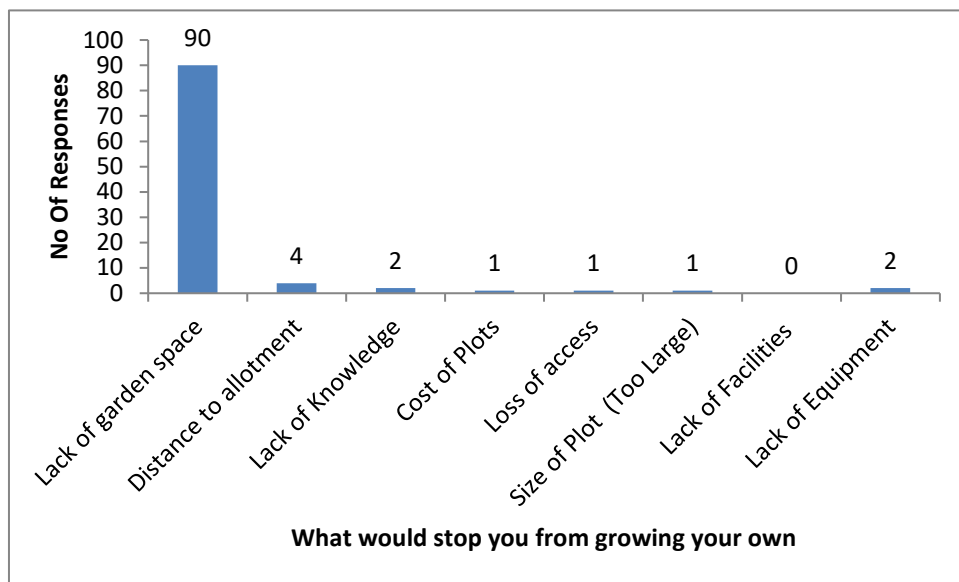
Of the 56 respondents who answered yes to Question 1 26 currently grow food in their gardens with 14 having access to allotments or community gardens. Six people has access to a neighbours garden with 4 people growing food on their balcony. Six of the respondents also grow pots within their homes.



3. 45 respondents who answered no to Question 1, stated they would you like to grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers.

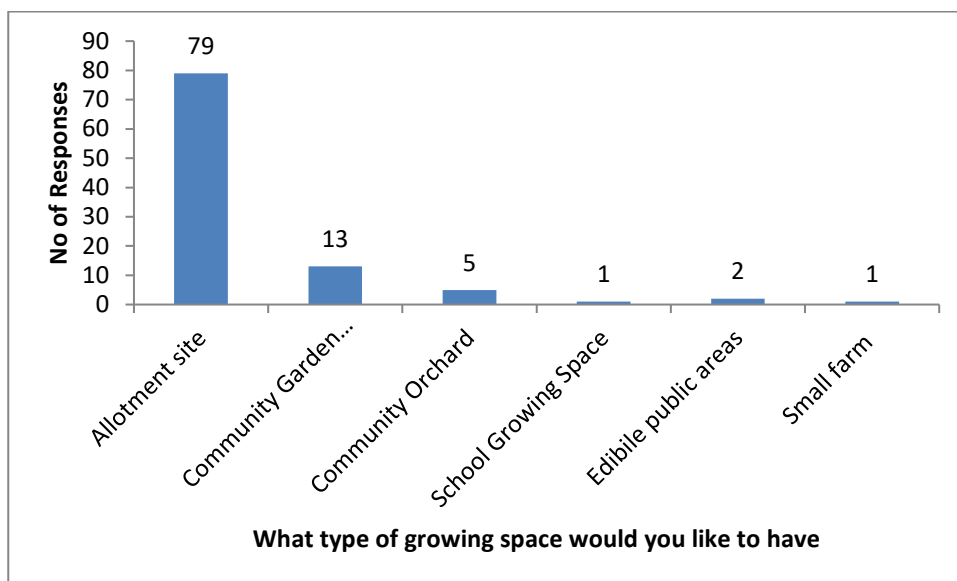
4. What would stop you from growing your own vegetables, herbs and flowers?

Of the 101 responses received the 90 stated that the lack of space was the main barrier to growing their own food.



5. What kind of growing space would you like to have the use of ?

79 of the respondents would prefer to be allocated a traditional allotment while 13 would make use of community gardens.

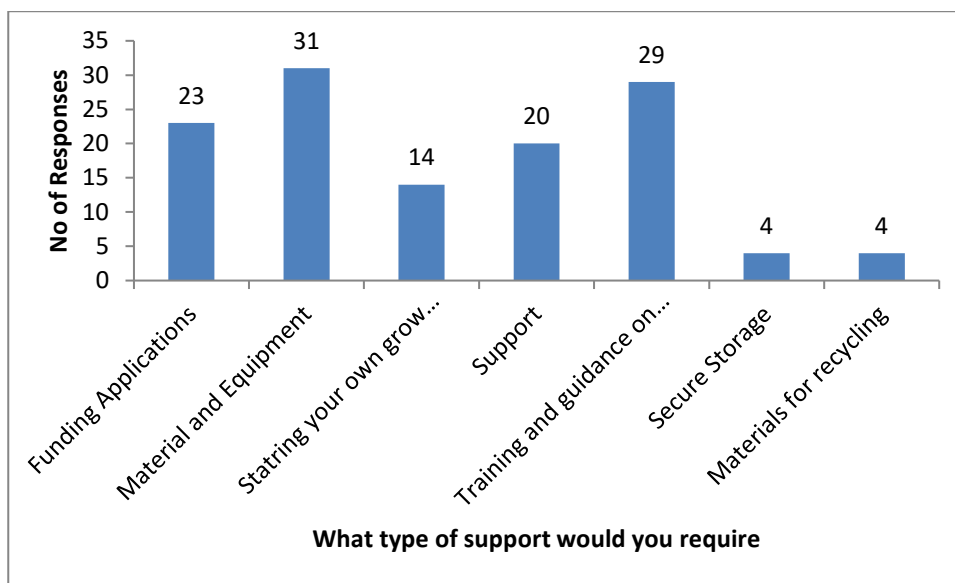


6. The Council has identified areas that may be suitable for use as community growing spaces or allotment areas. Are you aware of any vacant land which may be identified as suitable for growing your own vegetables, herbs and flowers?

- Braehead Primary School, Dumbarton
- Site of old St Eunans Primary School
- Clydebank Waterfront
- John Knox Street, Clydebank
- Cordale Community Garden
- Vacant land at Dalmuir/Old Kilpatrick boundary
- Derelict land at Littlemill, Bowling

7. What support do you feel you would need if any for being involved with a food growing project ?

The major issues appear to be availability of materials, training and support for funding applications and how to start a project featuring high on the list.



8. Would you like to be kept up to date on future community growing events and activities within the local area?

100 of the respondents would like to be informed about future projects.

Yes 100 No 1

The results of the stakeholder engagement exercises have helped to shape and develop the action plan associated to this Food Growing Strategy (**APPENDIX 1**). The action plan will deal with removing the barriers to community food growing and providing opportunities for those who would like to become more actively involved in growing their own food.

6 Current Provision

West Dunbartonshire Council are the land owners for two well established Allotment sites. Both of these sites are based in Dumbarton:

Castlegreen Street Allotments

This site was established in the early 20th Century . The site is managed by West Dunbartonshire Council in partnership with a constituted Allotment committee. This management model has been succesful in attracting external funding to improve the infrastructure around the site.

The site has 31 traditional allotment plots and is serviced with water, composting facilities, green waste skips, fencing and access paths.

There are high levels of interst in the site and there is a slow rate of turnover of plot holders.



Round Riding Road Allotments

This site was established in the 1970's. The site is solely managed by West Dunbartonshire Council.

The site has 7 traditional allotment plots and is serviced with water, fencing and access paths.

There are high levels of interest in the site and there is a very slow rate of turnover of plot holders.



In addition to the two Council managed sites there are three other privately managed traditional allotment sites in West Dunbartonshire. The three sites are located in Clydebank:

- Bannerman Street, Clydebank – 44 allotments
- Second Avenue/Queen Mary Gardens, Clydebank - 6 allotments
- Dalmuir Plots, Agamemnon Street, Clydebank – 50 allotments.

Community Food Growing

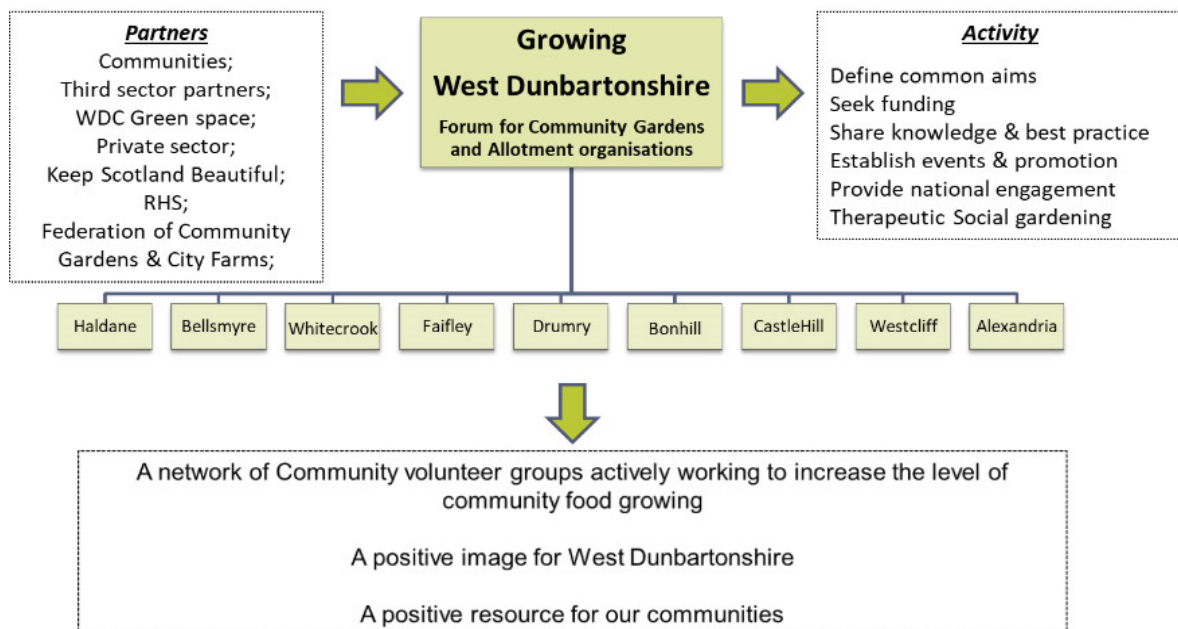
There are 65 other Community Food Growing sites operating within the Growing West Dunbartonshire group.

The primary aim of Growing West Dunbartonshire is to provide advice and encouragement to people wishing to establish a community garden or food growing activity small or large, or who wish to use our communities green space as sources of positive activities for all our residents.

Growing West Dunbartonshire is made up of community groups, nurseries and schools, working together to spread the message and share the benefits of local grown food. Since 2016 Growing West Dunbartonshire has been holding monthly meetings providing residents and groups with support and advice.

Growing West Dunbartonshire provides the following supports:

- Promote environmental best practices
- Increase awareness and connect groups and schools
- Monthly training & Information sessions
- Share seeds, plants, produce and equipment.
- Annual event showcasing activity across West Dunbartonshire



The shared vision of Growing West Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Council is what underpins this Food Growing Strategy and the associated action plan:

Inspiring people to make West Dunbartonshire the best Community Food growing and Garden location in Scotland

Growing West Dunbartonshire active groups:

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Dalmonach ELCC Ferryfield ELCC Gartocharn ELCC Ladyton ELCC St. Mary's Alexandria ELCC Riverside ELCC St. Kessogs ELCC Auchnacraig ELCC Clydebank Family centre Dalmuir ELCC KEYS Kilbowie ELCC St. Mary's ELCC Duntocher Whitecrook ELCC Linnvale ELCC Brucehill ELCC Meadowview ELCC St. Eunans ELCC Lennox ELCC Faifley Lennox ELCC Alexandria St. Ronans PS Bonhill PS Gartocharn PS VOLA Communicatons Hub St. Kessogs PS Whitecrook Cunard Eco Group</p> | <p>Dalreoch PS Dumbarton Academy Bowie Street Gardens Trellis Tullochan Trust Lomond Community Allotments Association Scottish Beekeepers Association Bellsmyre Community Gardens Royal Horticultural Society The Leamy Foundation St. Mungo's Growing space Action Old Kilpatrick Haldane Youth Services Eco Warriors group West Dunbartonshire Council Green space Alzheimer's Scotland Bonhill Community Gardens West Bridgend Community Gardens</p> | <p>Levenvale PS OHR PS Whitecrook PS Curard PS Carleith PS Our Lady of Lorreto PS St. Joesphs PS Edinbarnet PS Gavinburn PS Kilpatrick PS St Stephen's PS St. Mary's Duntocher PS Central Alexandria Community Growing space (Blue Triangle) Central Alexandria Betty's Bloomers Growing Beardmore Scottish Fruit Trees Faifley Community Allotments Association DACA CHAS Balloch Childrens Hour Nursery, Hardgate One Beardmore Gardens Knoxland Primary</p> |
|--|--|---|

Levensgrove Gardening Project

The Work Connect Levensgrove Gardening Project provides training and mentoring in gardening and Food Growing skills for upwards of 100 individuals in 13 client groups through-out the year. The project has access to plots, raised beds, poly-tunnels, greenhouses, land for development and a training suite, all located in the Greenspace Depot at Levensgrove Park.

This Work Connect project is a partnership between Greenspace, Working 4U (Community Learning & Development) and the CHCP. It aims to give people with a disability or other vulnerability, the space, tools and support to improve their quality of life through opportunities to learn and apply their skills and creativity in mutually supportive groups.



During their time on site, individuals are encouraged to see themselves as plotters or gardeners rather than clients and to work together; supporting and mentoring each other in learning and applying new skills and, of course, to enjoy and take pride in their work.

The work is an excellent example of how a local authority, thinking outside the box, can combine spare capacity in one department (park space) with resources (staff and funding) in another, to improve public services to people who may have difficulty accessing mainstream recreation, learning and employment provision.

Levensgrove Community Orchard

The Friends of Levensgrove Park are an inclusive, informal group of local volunteers who are passionate about the park and work in close partnership with the WDC Greenspace Community Ranger Service and the HSCP Work Connect Specialist Supported Employment Service. The group base their activities in the park and volunteer their time assisting with various activities including managing and maintaining the community orchard and the war memorial garden. Group members were successful in securing grant funding from the Council's Community Fund to purchase trees for the creation of an orchard within the park and to purchase equipment to allow them to harvest the fruit and arrange jam making sessions in partnership with the Community Engagement Ranger and Cafe staff. In addition, the group apply for other sources of grant aid to enhance the park and provide additional activities to improve the visitor experience.



Learn and Grow

Learn and Grow is a partnership committed to engaging, motivating and ultimately supporting residents to develop an active community food growing and outdoor activity resource in every education centre and community in West Dunbartonshire.

It is dedicated to the provision of an active community food growing space and outdoor education resource in every school and early years establishment in West Dunbartonshire, supporting family participation in a well being activity.

Learn and Grow offers a lively, engaging, multi-sensory way to teach children and families about growing and eating healthy food all year round. Aside from the physical health benefits that eating well brings, learning in an outdoor environment combats Nature Deficit Disorder and has been shown to increase mental health by boosting mood, confidence and self-esteem.

Learn and Grow provides the opportunity for parents, family members and volunteers to participate with education colleagues to ensure children have the opportunity to participate in Learn and Grow activities at school and in their wider communities.

There are currently 42 active food growing sites within West Dunbartonshire Education establishments benefiting from the Learn and Grow resource.

Learn and Grow is a collaborative partnership of the following:

- Royal Horticultural Society's "campaign for school gardening"
- Bellsmyre Community Gardens
- West Dunbartonshire Council Greenspace
- West Dunbartonshire Council Education Service
- Learning and Attainment
- Growing West Dunbartonshire
- The Leamy Foundation
- Better Views
- Claire Ramjan, PHD student



Learn and Grow Aims:

- Increase our awareness and use of our natural heritage resources throughout West Dunbartonshire
- Increase the active connections between schools, residents and community groups
- Increase opportunities for our residents to develop their wellbeing through increased use of natural heritage resource
- Increase our access to locally grown fruit and veg as per the “Good Food Nations” aims
- Encourage enterprise skill and improving behaviour
- Establish a community led legacy framework for Learn and Grow to be established as a consistent outdoor learning tool

Learn and Grow achievements since 2017:

Learn & Grow Schools & Nurseries in West Dunbartonshire

Why get outside and Grow.

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Know where our food comes from | Eat more fruit and veg |
| Know the benefits of eating healthy food | Be active |

Our Food Growing

- Supports curriculum learning
- Delivers outdoor learning
- Develops life & confidence skills
- Improves well being
- Protects our environment
- Gets our Community involved
- Is amazing fun

4460 volunteer hours
143 Parents and Volunteers
900 pupils participated

32 Growing spaces built
42 Schools & Nurseries involved
369 Activities

WE ARE A COMMUNITY

14 Partners in 15 Communities

Learn and Grow: the very best of our local food growing expertise, to inspire and equip every school and nursery to grow their own food.

Logos: Better Views, Bellsmyre Community Gardens, The Learnmy Foundation, West Dunbartonshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Council Environmental Fund, SCHOOL GARDENING, Growing West Dunbartonshire.

Here are some testimonials from staff and parents involved in Learn and Grow activities:

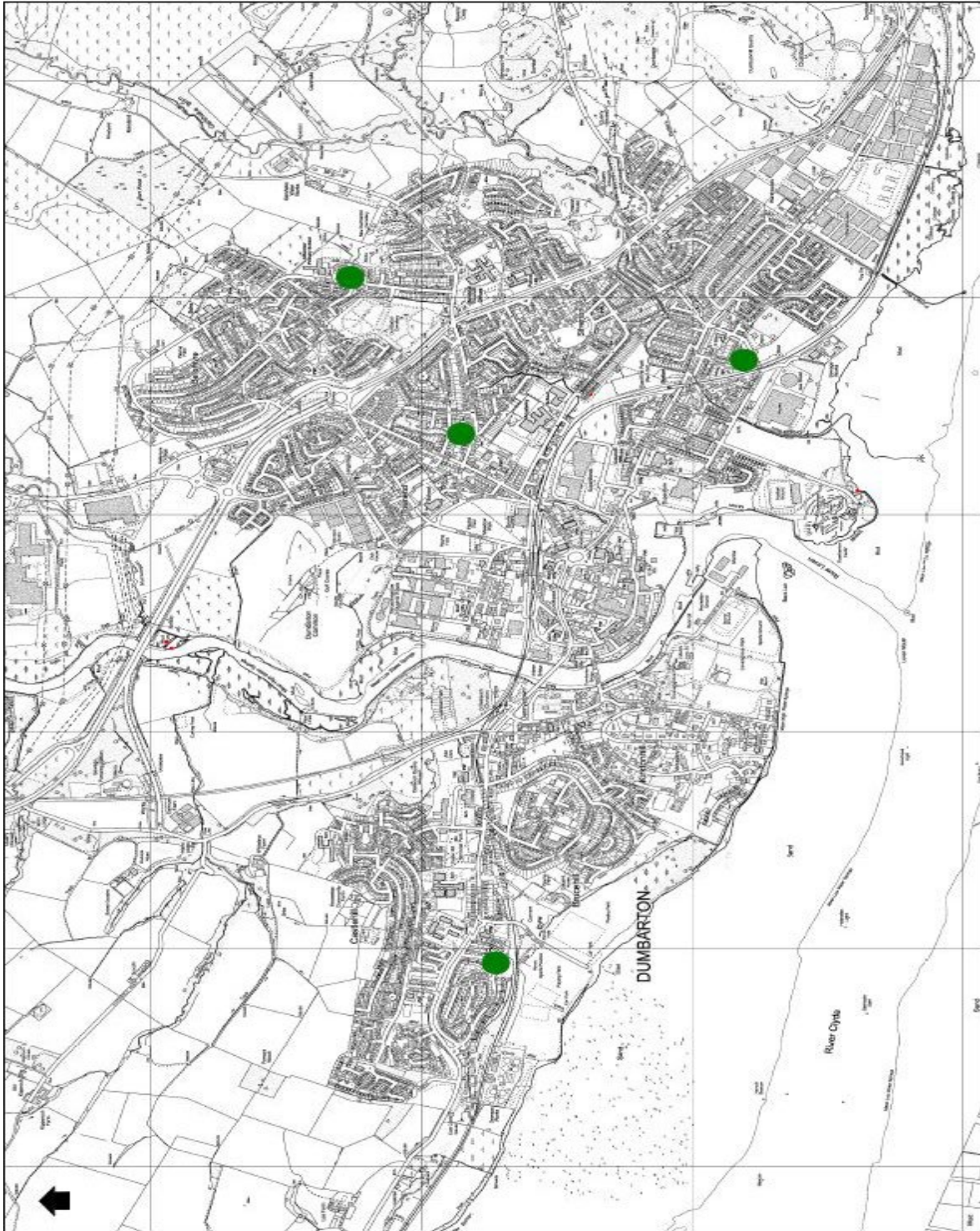
"The environment has become a safe and fun place to learn and play. We have grown as a team and community with just some seeds and soil."
Claire Campbell, Early Education and childcare officer

"The garden has been good for the staff team as it is encouraging us to get our hands dirty and be creative. It has helped us to develop our basic gardening skills and teach the children about respect and nurturing towards the plants/vegetables. I believe it has improved our mood and increased staff morale."
Susan Allsop, Early Education and childcare officer

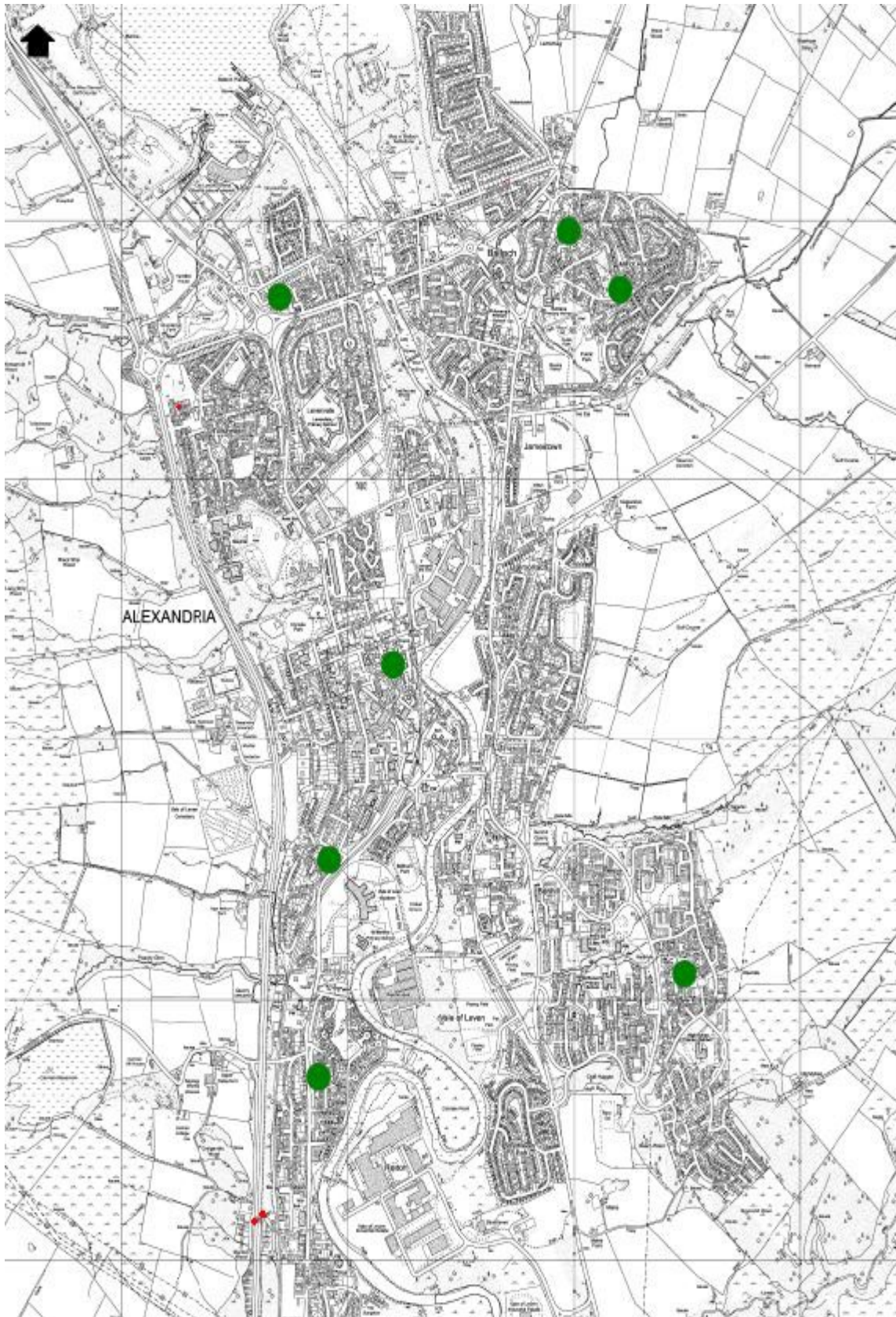
"Fab way to get involved and join in your child's learning in the nursery environment, it also feels good to contribute to the nursery grounds too. And the kids get to see progress of their work as the flowers and veg grow."
Louise, amazing parent helper!

The following maps identify current food growing locations throughout West Dunbartonshire.
These maps are also available online in an interactive format using the link below:

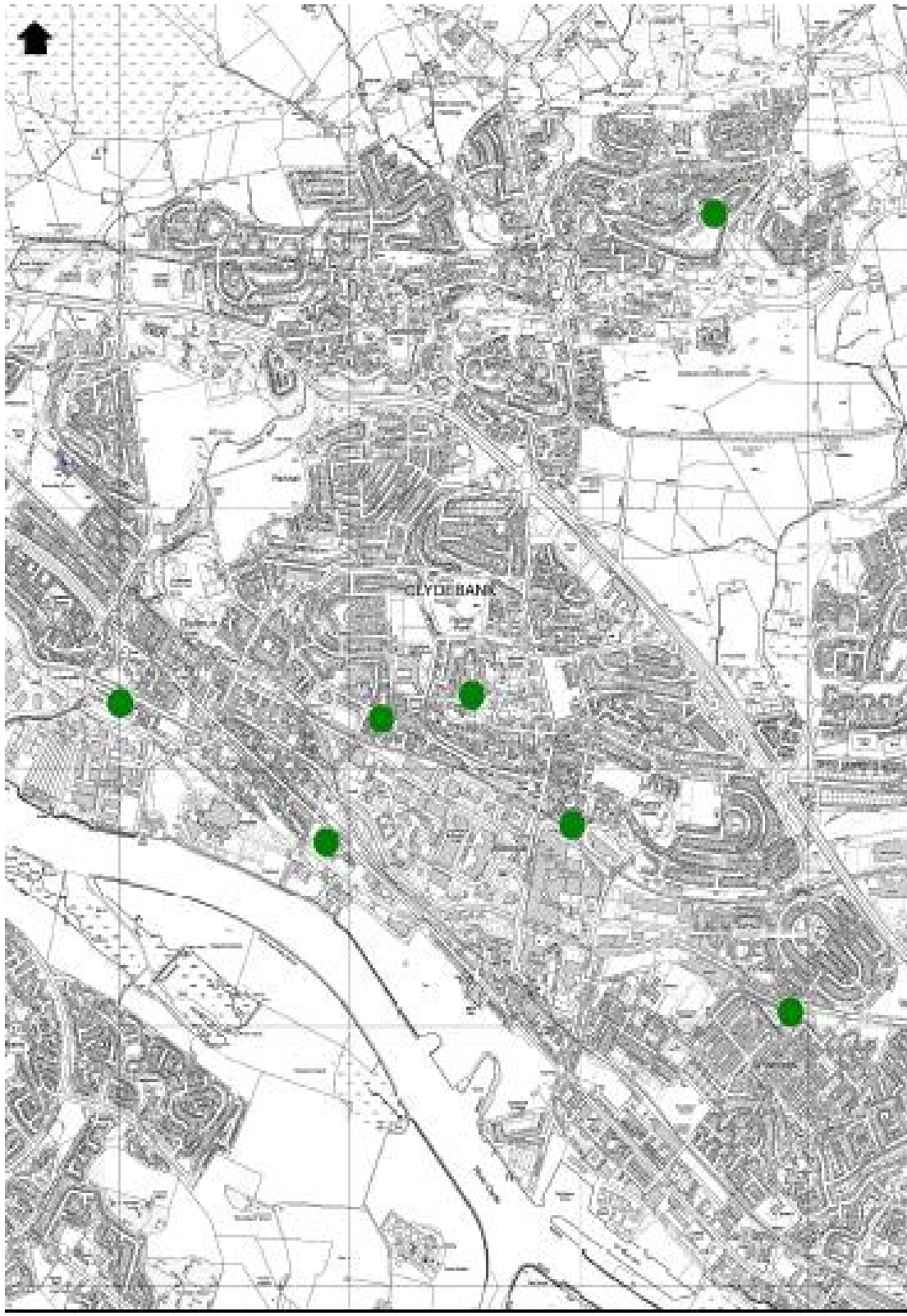
Dumbarton Map



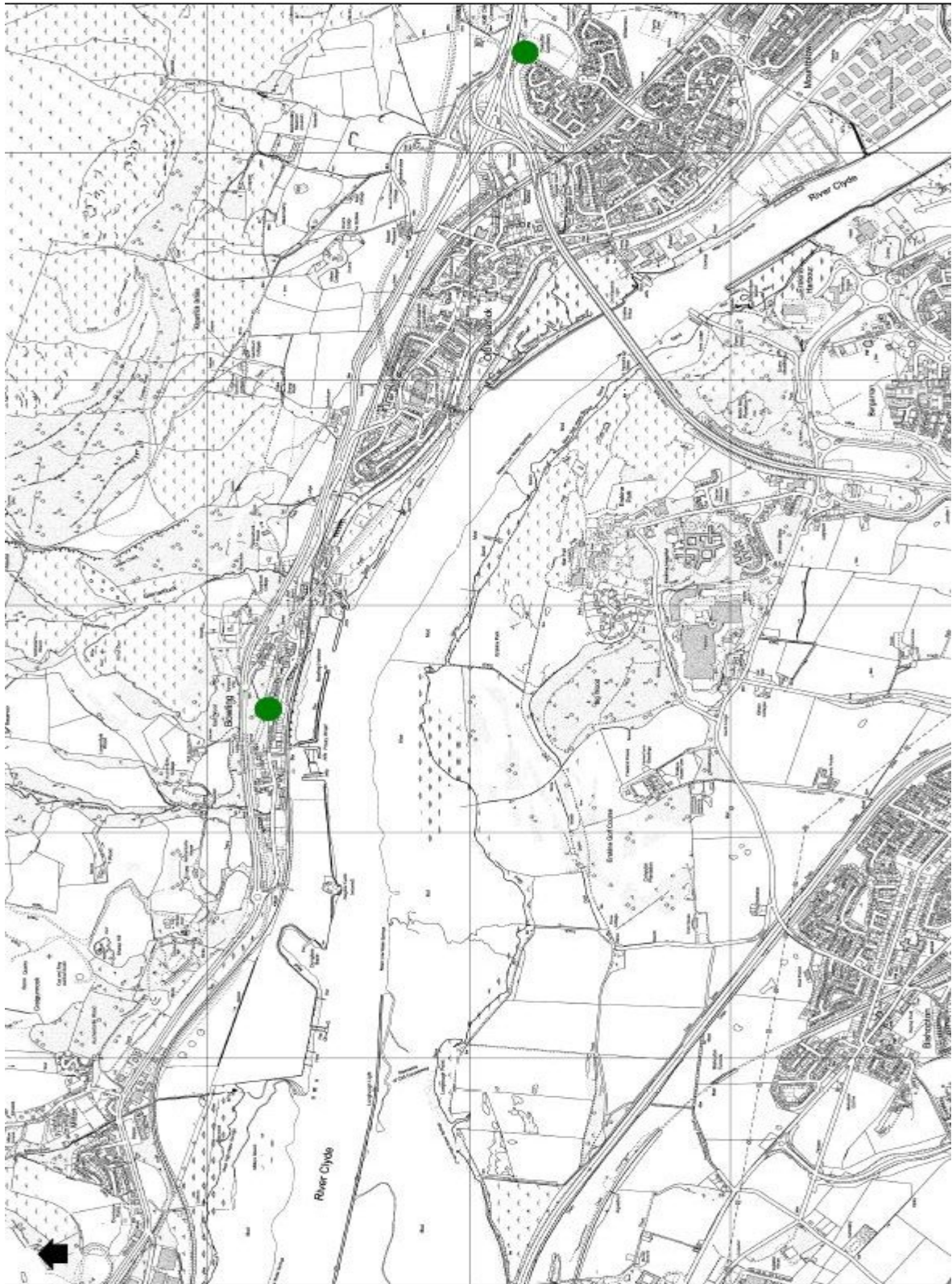
Vale of Leven Map



Clydebank Map



Milton, Bowling & Old Kilpatrick map



7 Developing Future Provision

West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to maintain a list of residents wishing to have an allotment plot. In line with part 9 of the Community Empowerment Act the aim is for the number of people on the waiting list to be no more than half the number of Council allotments available.

The Food Growing Strategy offers an opportunity to achieve this target by linking together the organisations and stakeholders who have an interest in food growing. This will allow for the development of a joined up approach to increasing food growing spaces throughout West Dunbartonshire.

A food growing working group made up of interested parties will be established to develop opportunities for food growing in West Dunbartonshire. This group will represent the Council, Community groups and individuals who have an interest in food growing. The group will assist with future consultation activities and the reviewing of the Food Growing Strategy action plan.

To ensure that the Council meets its obligations under the Community Empowerment Act we have carried out an audit of existing open spaces and gap sites to identify potential future allotment sites and community growing spaces.

West Dunbartonshire's industrial heritage has left a legacy of contaminated land that is not suitable for food growing. The food growing working group will continue to work with the council's contaminated land officers to assess land that has been identified as potential for food growing.

The Councils 2020/21 budget has agreed to provide £500,000 of capital funding to develop new allotment sites. It is recognised that given the scale of demand for allotments in West Dunbartonshire, other forms of funding will need to be secured. The Council will work with partners and community groups to secure external funding for the creation of additional growing spaces. In relation to community growing spaces options for community asset transfer will also be explored.

Projects that are currently being developed to provide future food growing sites:

- Townend Road Allotment site – a mix of 30 traditional allotments and community raised beds. Development work is being carried out for delivery in early 2021.
- Clydebank Community Sports Hub – 20 traditional allotments to be managed by the sports hub board. Due for completion in October 2020.
- Melfort Community Park - 30 raised beds within a community garden. Due for completion November 2020.

Potential Growing Spaces:

Vale of Leven:

- Woodlands Court, Tullichewan
- Inler park, Haldane
- Manse Gardens, Haldane
- Christie Park
- Central Alexandria Redevelopment Area
- Cordale, Renton
- Vale of Leven Academy
- Gap site next to St Ronans Primary
- Unused play area near Bonhill Quarry
- Urban foraging along the River Leven

Dumbarton:

- Knowtop Farm, Castlehill
- Phoenix Centre, Castlehill
- Field adjacent to Leven valley Centre
- Posties Park
- Firth View, Brucehill
- Mill Dam, Silverton
- Milton Park
- Willox Park
- Urban foraging along the River Clyde

Clydebank

- Singer Road, disused football park
- Dalmuir Park
- Drumry Linear Park
- Bedford Avenue, Drumry
- Glasgow Road, Bowling
- Urban foraging along the F&C Canal

Many of the sites identified fall within areas that have high levels of deprivation and food poverty.

The Council recognises that there can be economic barriers to growing your own food. These barriers include the purchase of equipment and materials, accessing training opportunities and the general running costs associated with an allotment. The Council will work with community groups and allotment associations to help to identify funding streams that will help to mitigate these barriers.

Food Growing Action Plan

The actions detailed within this action plan will be reviewed regularly and updated annually

| No. | Action | Lead | Timescale |
|-----|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | Form Food Growing Working Group to review and develop West Dunbartonshire Food Growing Strategy | WDC Greenspace | December 2020 |
| 2 | Carry out public consultation on Draft Strategy | WDC Greenspace | November 2020 |
| 3 | Develop new allotment site at Townend Road, Dumbarton | WDC Greenspace | July2021 |
| 4 | Assist Community groups to develop potential food growing opportunities | Food Growing Working Group | Ongoing |
| 5 | Update database of current and future growing spaces | WDC Greenspace | October 2020 |
| 6 | Provide opportunities for training and best practice workshops | WDC Greenspace/ Growing West Dunbartonshire | Ongoing |
| 7 | Monitor demand for allotments and respond as per Community Empowerment Act | WDC Greenspace | Ongoing |
| 8 | Review waiting list and offer alternative food growing options if available | WDC Greenspace | December2020 |
| 9 | Maintain and update interactive maps | WDC Greenspace | Ongoing |
| 10 | Develop internal and external capital funding bids to provide food growing spaces | Food Growing Working Group/ Community groups | Ongoing |
| 11 | Establish Learn and grow and Growing West Dunbartonshire as strategic partners. | WDC Greenspace/ Growing West Dunbartonshire | December 2020 |
| 12 | Report allotment waiting lists via Council website and Growing West Dunbartonshire. | WDC Greenspace | October 2020 |
| 13 | Map demand, both current and anticipated future demand to take account of planned housing developments etc. | WDC Greenspace/ Development Management | Ongoing |
| 14 | Facilitate an annual stakeholder community food growing review | Food Growing Working Group | Ongoing |
| 15 | Develop a community wide awareness program delivered by | Food Growing Working Group/ | January 2021 |

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| | Growing West Dunbartonshire increasing communities understanding of and capacity to support and deliver the food growing action plans. | WDC Greenspace/ Growing West Dunbartonshire | |
| 16 | Deliver an annual Growfest celebration event incorporating a Community Eco Award | Food Growing Working Group/ WDC Greenspace/ Growing West Dunbartonshire | Ongoing |
| 17 | Assign resources to the delivery of a community led, Learn and Grow healthy eating campaign integrating education centres, health centres and community organisations. | WDC Greenspace/ Growing West Dunbartonshire/ Leamy Foundation | Ongoing |
| 18 | Review Action Plan annually | Food Growing Working Group/ WDC Greenspace | September 2021 |
| 19 | Review Strategy every five years | Food Growing Working Group/ WDC Greenspace | September 2025 |
| 20 | Seek capital and revenue funding to meet legislative requirements in relation to Community Empowerment Act | WDC Greenspace | Ongoing |
| 21 | Continue to support and resource the Learn and Grow initiative | WDC Greenspace/ WDC Education | Ongoing |
| 22 | Provide assistance for individuals and groups to develop food growing opportunities in disadvantaged areas of West Dunbartonshire | Food Growing Working Group/ WDC Greenspace | Ongoing |
| 23 | Encourage intergenerational food growing learning activities in communities | Food Growing Working Group/ WDC Greenspace/ WDC Education | Ongoing |
| 24 | Develop Food Growing Strategy website | Food Growing Working Group/ WDC Corporate Comms | December 2020 |
| 25 | Complete new Community Allotment site at Melfort Gardens | WDC Greenspace/ WDC Economic Development | October 2020 |
| 26 | Complete Community Allotment site at Clydebank Sports Hub | WDC Greenspace/ Sports Hub Committee | November 2020 |

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| 27 | Review Allotment Tenancy agreements | WDC Greenspace | November 2020 |
| 28 | Investigate opportunities for renewable energy sources within growing spaces | WDC Greenspace | December 2020 |
| 29 | Ensure future food growing sites are considered to be funded by Developers Contributions | WDC Greenspace/ Forward Planning | Ongoing |