
CONSULTATION ON DRAFT FOOD GROWING STRATEGY

Report by Executive Director, Finance and Regulatory

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

15 September 2020

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1. Following the legislative requirements set out in Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, this report introduces Scottish Borders Council's first ever Food Growing Strategy – 'Cultivating Communities' and seeks approval for consultation on the Draft Strategy. This report also sets out the process and next steps in delivering on the Strategy Action Plan, as well as associated changes to Allotment management –including new Allotment Regulations - as required by the legislation.**
- 1.2. The Food Growing Strategy supports the Locality Plans for the region and is itself supported with the proposed creation of new policy EP17 in the Local Development Plan.
- 1.3 The Consultation Draft Food Growing Strategy was proposed to be brought to Executive on March 17th 2020. However due to Covid-19, this has been delayed. This paper now brings the Draft Strategy, and proposed Allotment Regulations, to Executive for approval for consultation and resourcing.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Executive Committee:-**
 - (a) Approves the Draft Strategy for Consultation**
 - (b) Approves the proposals for resourcing as set out in 9.1**
 - (c) Approves the proposed statutory consultation on the new Allotment Regulations**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 updates and simplifies allotments legislation, bringing it together in a single instrument, introducing new duties on local authorities to increase transparency on the actions taken to provide allotments in their area and limit waiting times. Allotments are defined in Part 9 as land that is owned or leased by a local authority and used wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers and not for profit. A key requirement of the Legislation is for every local authority to develop a Food Growing Strategy under section 119 of the Act. Each authority must set out in its food-growing strategy how it will provide land to meet demand for food growing as allotments or other forms of cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers for community or individual growing.
- 3.2 While Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act came into effect in 2015, the detailed guidance on preparing the Food Growing Strategy was published in November 2018. Since then officers have been engaging with stakeholders and undertaking a review of Allotments and Community food growing in the Scottish Borders.

4 STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Stakeholders such as Community Planning Partners, local 3rd sector organisations, Allotment Associations/Societies and Community growing project managers have been consulted with through a series of meetings, gaining insight into current growing activities and needs for future capacity building.
- 4.2 A 12 week public consultation was launched on 24 July 2019, following the format of similar consultations undertaken by Greenspace Scotland in other local authorities. The aim of this was to gain insight into current and potential local food growing activity, to guide the development of the Strategy.
- 4.3 The consultation ran for 12 weeks from 24 July to 16 October 2019 and was promoted to all Community Councils, In Bloom groups, 3rd sector organisations, publicly via a press release (30 July) and via website and social media. It had a good response, with 300 respondents. A summary of the consultation is included as an appendix to the Strategy.
- 4.4 The Allotment Regulations are subject to a statutory 1 month consultation, upon approval by the Executive.

5 COVID-19

- 5.1 Covid-19 has transformed the way we live our lives. The duration and future outlook for the virus is not known. However, the Food Growing Strategy remains largely unchanged in its aim and approach – to facilitate communities wishing to grow their own food locally. Indeed, the mental health benefits of outdoor working and community support are even more acutely needed, as is the role of local Food Security. To this end, it is felt that the Food Growing Strategy can contribute positively to the lives of our communities during the CV-19 era. The Strategy has been amended to include advice around working safely in communities to prevent any spread of infection, see the volunteer information sheet at the end (and the risk commentary at 9.2 below).

- 5.2 The activities of the volunteer programme situated at Wilton Lodge Park Hawick are detailed at 7.2 of this report. However the proposed investment into the Conservatory glass house set out at 9.1.2 is, in light of CV-19, critical to the ongoing success of this project and indeed the wider Food Growing Strategy, as it creates a safe, fit for purpose place where volunteers can take shelter and practice social distancing, as well as the additional propagation and cultivation opportunities it creates.
- 5.3 All food growing strategies were to be in place originally by April 2020, however the impacts of CV-19 have delayed this for SBC. Colleagues at Scottish Government have been supplied a revised timeline for SBC adopting a final strategy of April 2021, and this anticipates a launch of the Draft Strategy for Consultation in late September 2020.

6 STRATEGY

- 6.1 Following the consultation outlined in section 4 above, the Strategy has been developed based on the information gathered. The aim of this Strategy is to support and facilitate anyone who wants to get growing, through existing growing opportunities and new approaches to growing. The key objectives of the Food Growing Strategy are:
- To provide a central resource for community growing information
 - To raise awareness around community growing in the Scottish Borders
 - To show you how to get growing: where, how and who can help you/your community group
 - To help you get your community growing project off the ground
 - To help identify potential allotment sites and growing spaces
- 6.2 In developing a food growing strategy for the Scottish Borders the Council is committed to delivering the wider benefits associated with food growing including:
- Improving health and wellbeing outcomes
 - Promoting opportunities for social interaction
 - Environmental improvement including climate change and food waste
 - Skills development
 - Economic development and sustainability.

In delivering these benefits the Food Growing Strategy is supportive of the work of the Community Food Network, Locality Planning and Education & Lifelong Learning.

- 6.3 Survey responses identified a need for support to individuals and communities interested in food growing, broadly falling into three themes which form the structure of the strategy:

Getting started: how can I get growing? Support for getting started - Skills and Advice; training, confidence and resources to get started.

Where can I grow? Help to find space – existing sites and new growing spaces and getting the right permissions in place.

Where can I get support for my growing project/growing activities?
How to resource your project: Funding, networking and skills sharing

- 6.4 The Strategy places emphasis on participation and self-mobilisation, supporting and facilitating the linking up of volunteers to projects, new growing aspirations to existing resources, and skills sharing across the Borders. Within the region there are a wealth of projects and growing groups who work collaboratively, sharing skills and volunteers. There are opportunities to work with local schools.
- 6.5 The Strategy also sets out new growing opportunities within the region, thinking creatively about how and where communities can get growing. The extensive network of amenity greenspace owned by Scottish Borders Council presents an opportunity for communities to 'adopt' areas for growing: former bedding plant areas and amenity grass areas may lend themselves to adoption for community food growing, and the strategy invites exploration of these opportunities within communities.
- 6.6 As part of the Strategy, information on all growing opportunities within the region – existing community growing sites, allotment sites and other growing sites - are listed and mapped to be made available online. If approved, it is proposed that the online mapping will be launched as a consultative draft at the same time as the Strategy.

7 ACTION PLAN AND RESOURCING

- 7.1 As well as supporting and facilitating self-deployment of individuals and community groups to get growing, the Strategy sets out the Council's commitments through the Action Plan:

Action	
1. Develop Policy Framework	1.1. Investigate and explore opportunities to develop further policies in support of food growing and community growing with Community Planning Partners
	1.2. Adopt new planning policy - EP17 Food Growing and Community Growing spaces – as part of the Local Development Plan, safeguarding food growing spaces and enabling increased provision.
	1.3. Review of corporate policies and strategies to support Food Growing and Community Food Growing.
2. Review provision and Management of Allotments	2.1. Co-ordinate waiting list information with appropriate Allotments Associations to ensure data collection is handled accurately and appropriately
	2.2. Investigate new allotment sites in areas of demand, working with community groups and private landowners where possible
	2.3. Review and implement new Allotment Regulations, including setting of fair rent charges
	2.4. Prepare an Annual Allotment Report
3. Support the Community Growing Network	3.1. Develop networking event(s) for community growers and volunteers
	3.2. Explore the creation of 'Growing Ambassadors', as part of the #yourpart Corporate Programme
	3.3. Consolidate resources for food growing through the development of the Volunteer Coordinator role

7.2 Scottish Borders Council in partnership with Live Borders, has operated a community volunteering project at Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick since 2010. This provides opportunities for a wide range of volunteers and voluntary groups to access and gain support for skills development in food growing, under a supervised programme offered by the Council. During the last 10 years, the project has made a huge difference in terms of supporting volunteers with specific needs to get involved in community food growing. Action 3.3 above highlights the need for maximising existing resources through the development of the existing Volunteer Co-ordinator role based at Wilton Lodge Park Walled Garden. This post currently sits with LIVE Borders, having been transferred over in 2018. By bringing this resource back in house, the post can be aligned with the delivery of the Strategy outcomes, supporting volunteers and sharing skills across the region. To fully maximise the opportunity to support and promote Community growing and Education, replacement of the dilapidated Conservatory in the Walled Garden is also proposed (see section 9).

8 ALLOTMENTS

- 8.1 As outlined in Section 111 of the legislation, local authorities have a duty to maintain a waiting list. Scottish Borders Council currently maintains a waiting list, but must make minor amendments to the way in which the data is held;
- Liaising with 3rd party allotment managers (such as Allotment Associations) of Council owned land, ensuring waiting list data is merged to ensure no 'double counting'.
 - Collect data on allotment requirements: size/access requirements
- 8.2 Under the terms of section 112 of the legislation when certain trigger points of demand are reached, Local Authorities have 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. The Action Plan sets out the next steps in ensuring that adequate provision of local authority allotments is assured throughout the Borders.
- 8.3 Authorities also have a duty to produce an annual Allotments Report. This is to include data such as demand, uptake and waiting list details.
- 8.4 Local Authorities are also required to develop Allotment Regulations, in accordance with Section 115 of the legislation. The draft regulations are included at Appendix 2 and it is anticipated that this will be advertised for statutory consultation of 1 month. Section 115 of the legislation also requires Authorities to set fair rents for allotments which has been undertaken as part of the 20/21 budget process.

9 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial

The financial impact of transferring the Volunteer Co-ordinator post back from Live Borders to the Parks & Environment Service within Scottish Borders Council are set out below and will be met from the budget currently used to fund the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Live Borders and SBC - details of which are shown below:

Grade 6 SCP 043	
	25 hrs/wk
Gross	£17,141
NI	£1,514
Pension	£ 3,085
	£21,740

The capital expenditure to support the ongoing programme of volunteering and develop resources for Community Food Growing is focussed on the replacement of the existing conservatory within Wilton Lodge Park Walled Garden, for which costs are estimated at £100k. This will be funded from the Community Benefit derived from the Hawick Flood scheme and the Community Outdoor Facilities

9.2 Risk and Mitigations

- 9.2.1 In order to meet the requirements of the legislation Scottish Borders Council has undertaken a consultation exercise and engaged with stakeholders, and their views have been taken into account in shaping the Strategy. The Action Plan aims to ensure that the Strategy is implemented and mitigates potential risks to success.
- 9.2.2 The Action Plan requires resource to be implemented. There is a risk to delivery if insufficient resource is allocated to the Actions contained therein, e.g. supporting community growing, sourcing land and associated infrastructure for growing etc. There are various options available which will be explored further to mitigate against this this.
- 9.2.3 Due to Covid-19, signs will be erected across outdoor volunteering and allotment sites advising the public to follow government social distancing guidance regarding Covid-19. The same information will be included in the Strategy as a central point of reference.

9.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An IAA has been undertaken and it is anticipated that there are no adverse impact on unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic (age, disability, gender re-assignment, trans/transgender identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race groups, religion or belief, sex-gender identity, and sexual orientation) and those who do not. Indeed, reducing socio-economic inequality is inherent in the promotion and facilitation of local food growing opportunities to all.

9.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no adverse direct economic, social or environmental issues identified within this report.

9.5 Carbon Management

There are no direct carbon emissions impacts as a result of this report; there may be net reduction in emissions related to reduced food miles and increased carbon capture.

9.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

9.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

None

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Monitoring and Chief Legal Officer, the Executive Director Finance & Regulatory, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and Communications and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

David Robertson

Executive Director, Finance and Regulatory Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers:**Previous Minute Reference:**

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Capital and Investment Team can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact - Jacqueline Whitelaw, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA, 01835-824000, ext. 5431.

APPENDIX 1 – DRAFT FOOD GROWING STRATEGY (see separate pdf)

APPENDIX 2 – PROPOSED ALLOTMENT REGULATIONS

THE SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

Allotment Rules and Regulations 2020

Rules and Regulations for Allotment Plots on Council Managed Land 2020

The Scottish Borders Council ("the Council") has a statutory duty to provide allotments in terms of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 ("the 2015 Act"). These rules are made in support of this statutory function and to support those leasing allotment plots ("tenants") understand their responsibilities. Where there is a contradiction between these rules and the 2015 Act the terms of the 2015 Act including any regulations ("Regulations") shall apply. These rules will be subject to review once final guidance relating to Part 9 of the 2015 Act has been provided.

1 Allotment Plot Letting

- (a) For allotment plots on Council owned land, an allotment plot application form must be completed and submitted in writing either by email to placebookings@scotborders.gov.uk or send to Business Support Team (Allotments), Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA or such other address as is publicised by the Council.
- (b) The Council maintains a waiting list and will offer available plots to the first person on the list based on what has been requested or the next available size. Applicants may remain on the list until the prescribed size of plot has been offered however, if a valid offer is refused due to personal circumstances, applicants will be moved to the end of the waiting list if the five year time limit prescribed by the 2015 Act will or has been exceeded.
- (c) Allotment tenancies will only be granted to residents, 18 years or over who reside within the Scottish Borders Council area. Individuals who live outside or move outwith the Scottish Borders area shall not be entitled to retain an allotment tenancy and the Council or the relevant association shall be entitled to require that any such tenancy be brought to an end in accordance with the termination provisions herein.
- (d) The Council reserves the right to inspect any allotment sites and records without giving prior notice to ensure that allotment plots are being managed in accordance with these rules.
- (e) All tenants are required to sign an agreement in terms of the Scottish Borders Council Allotments – Conditions of Let annexed hereto annually in advance agreeing to lease an allotment plot for that year and that they shall adhere to these rules and any that may pertain to the particular allotment site and/or any Regulations.
- (f) The tenant shall ensure that any change of address or contact details are notified as soon as reasonably practicable to the Business Support Team (Allotments) at the address specified in 1(a) above. The Council / Association shall not be held responsible for any losses resulting from a failure by a tenant to provide information.
- (g) Should an existing tenant wish to increase the size of their allotment plot they shall submit a new application form and will be added to the end of the waiting list of applicants wishing to let an allotment tenancy.
- (h) Any applicant who accepts a smaller allotment plot than requested will be removed from the waiting list. Should the tenant wish a larger plot at a later date, a new application must be submitted to join the waiting list.
 - (i) Where a person (or joint applicant) who has had an allotment tenancy previously terminated by the Council or Association makes an application for an allotment tenancy it shall be considered taking into account the circumstances of the previous termination and any Regulation that may apply at that time.
- (j) A tenant shall not sub-let or share occupation of any part of their allotment plot with any

other person without the prior written consent of the Council/Association.

- (k) The Council will consider the transfer of an allotment tenancy to a joint applicant 18 years or over, should the existing tenant be permanently unfit or deceased. If approved, the Council will require written proof to be submitted and a new tenancy agreement shall be signed.
- (l) If an allotment tenancy is terminated, there will be no refund due to the tenant by the Council.
- (m) The first named person on joint applications shall be considered the lead applicant. Should the lead applicant withdraw, the second named applicant will remain on the waiting list unless advised in writing that both wish to withdraw. Further applicants cannot be added and second named applicants will remain on the list as a single applicant.

2 Charges

- (a) An annual subscription fee will be payable for allotment plots on Council managed/owned sites.
- (b) For Council managed allotment sites the annual subscription of the allotments will be due on 1 April each year. The annual subscription shall be set by the Council at its sole discretion.
- (c) The Council shall consider any subscription not paid in full within 30 days of the invoice date as an indication that the tenant of that allotment plot wishes to give up the allotment tenancy. Following a defined timescale, the Council shall be entitled to enter upon the allotment plot and remove all items and building or erections and make the allotment plot available for re-letting to another person
- (d) Changes to circumstances that affect your ability to pay, must be advised in writing to the Business Support Team (Allotments). The Council will review specific circumstances and offer support and guidance.
- (e) Annual subscriptions and any other charges that may be payable are subject to annual review and tenants will be notified of any increase in advance. To cover costs, charges will be based on a rate per square metre and what services are provided which may vary from site to site.
- (f) When an allotment plot is allocated in a secure site, a key will be issued to the tenant.
- (g) A tenant shall notify the Business Support Team (Allotments) of any lost / stolen keys.

3 Allotment Plot Management

- (a) All tenants shall be responsible for keeping their allotment plots in a clean and tidy condition at all times of year to the standard outlined in the rules and regulations at the Council's sole discretion. Allotment sites will be regularly inspected by the Council and/or Association.
- (b) An allotment plot must be used for the sole purpose of growing vegetables, fruit and other produce and tenants may sell such produce grown (other than with a view to making a profit). At least 50% of individual allotment plots should be used for growing purposes.
- (c) All tenants shall be responsible for ensuring that weed growth is controlled and their allotment plots are cultivated by the end of April prior to the growing season all to a

standard outlined in the rules and regulations at the Council's sole discretion, e.g. the allotment plot should either be: well underway in the process of being prepared for crops; in readiness for growing; or be well stocked with growing produce. Seed heads should be removed before they set and pernicious weeds such as couch grass, ground elder, brambles or mares tail must be controlled.

- (d) A tenant shall be responsible for keeping the boundaries and paths adjacent to their allotment plot in a clean and tidy condition. Where a path is adjacent to two allotment plots, the respective tenants shall come to an agreement as to how it is to be kept clear of weeds and any obstructions failing which the Council or Association shall direct the tenants as to how this is to be done.
- (e) The prior written consent of the Council or Association shall be obtained by a tenant regarding the location and size of any buildings to be erected within their allotment plot, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld if the proposals do not unduly shade adjacent allotment plots or take up more than 25% of the said plot. The Council or Association will be entitled to ask for whatever information it considers necessary in order to reach a decision as to whether such consent is to be given.
- (f) A tenant shall not allow trees on the allotment plot, with the exception of fruit trees which must be maintained within the allotment plot and which shall not grow into or cause shade to be cast on neighbouring allotment plots. Fruit bushes are permitted to be grown.
- (g) A tenant shall be responsible for ensuring that appropriate pest and disease control is carried out on the allotment plot.
- (h) A tenant must not allow their allotment plot to be used for the storage of glass, timber, refuse or any other material deemed unsuitable by the Council.
- (i) A tenant shall not do anything to adversely affect other allotment plots, including but not limited to, spray damage, fertiliser run off, spreading/seeding weeds or any other activity that may cause damage and/or nuisance.
- (j) Crops, structures, etc. on individual allotment plots are the responsibility of the tenant and the Council and/or Association shall not be liable for any incidents that take place and/or damage occurring to said items save where such incidents and/or damage are as a result of the actions of their employees or authorised representatives.
- (k) Tenants are encouraged to practice good housekeeping and sustainable practices e.g. composting green waste on the allotment plot, the use of water butts for collecting water and responsible disposal of waste material.
- (l) Tenants are responsible for the removal of all waste lawfully from their allotment plot. Small scale burning using a closed vessel such as a chiminea is permitted however must be controlled and must not compromise adjacent allotment plots and/or neighbouring properties.
- (m) To increase sustainability and keep charges manageable, tenants are encouraged to harvest water within their allotment plots to supplement mains water provision where provided. It is not permitted to install additional water taps.
- (n) Where no mains water is provided, plot holders must harvest water within their allotment plot.
- (o)

4 Structures and Property

- (a) No greenhouse, polytunnel, shed or storage hut shall be erected on an allotment plot or in an allotment site by a tenant without the prior written consent from the Council who will advise of a suitable location to minimise or eradicate shading to other allotment plots. Caravans are not permitted on any allotment site.
- (b) Prior to the erection of a greenhouse, shed or other building / structure, the tenant shall provide construction details to the Council or Association for approval. Details shall include: type of structure; size of structure; height of structure; building materials; location on allotment plot (in order that it shall not result in any adverse affect on neighbouring allotment plots) and any other information considered necessary.
- (c) No consent given by the Council shall operate as planning permission, building warrant, or any other approval which the tenant may require from the Council in any of their capacities. The tenant shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary planning consents and/or building warrants in respect of the erection of a greenhouse, shed or other building/structure, if applicable.
- (d) Tenants are solely responsible for the safety and maintenance of any structure as well as boundary fences on their allotment plots. Tenants are not permitted to plant boundary hedges.
- (e) When any structure is to be demolished the tenant shall ensure that all waste materials are removed from the allotment plot and allotment site and disposed of lawfully.
- (f) No more than 25% of an allotment plot shall be used for non growing structures such as sheds, seating, storage.
- (g) The tenant shall indemnify the Council against all claims and liabilities which may be made against the Council arising directly or indirectly from any breach or non-performance by the tenant of their obligations under the Allotment Agreement or from any act, omission or negligence of the tenant or any person acting expressly or implied with the authority of the tenant in relation to the Plot or so arising from the presence of any of the tenant's property and from the expenses of proceedings arising therefrom.
- (h) The tenant shall insure any greenhouse, shed or other building/structure erected upon their allotment plot against the risk of loss or damage by fire and shall provide a copy of the current Certificate of Insurance to the Council, if asked to do so. The tenant shall be responsible for insuring the contents of the greenhouse, shed or other building/structure, if desired.
- (i) The Scottish Borders Council and its employees cannot accept responsibility for any claims, loss or damage which may arise from using this facility, except so far as provided by statute.
- (j) Tenants are responsible for the removal of any structures as requested by the Council following the end of a lease. Failure to do so, may result in charges being levied to cover any costs incurred by the Council.

5 Animals/Livestock

- (a) Dogs are allowed on allotment sites. The tenant shall be responsible for keeping or, if not the owner, ensuring that the dogs are kept under control at all times and that they are kept on a lead.
- (b) Tenants who bring their dogs on to or permit a visitor to bring dogs on to an allotment site are responsible for the safe disposal of any dog waste and for any damage that may be caused by said dogs.

- (c) Tenants shall not kennel animals/poultry overnight nor permit the same on any part of an allotment site.
- (d) No animals/livestock shall be permitted on an allotment site without the prior written consent of the Council whose decision shall be final.

6 Security and Maintenance

- (a) All tenants share responsibility for the security of an allotment site at all times and shall enter and leave the allotment site only through the authorised boundary gates. Children must be supervised by an appropriate adult at all times.
- (b) Each of the boundary gates of an allotment shall be padlocked and tenants shall lock these at all times on entering and leaving. Where applicable, each tenant shall ensure that keys are retained securely.
- (c) The key to the allotment site remains the property of the Council and/or Association and is issued to a tenant strictly for the purposes of access to and egress from an allotment site and is not transferable to any other person.
- (d) A tenant is responsible for the security of any greenhouse, shed, property etc., on their allotment plot.
- (e) Each tenant shall not enter an un-let allotment plot or one let to another person or remove any item or materials from said allotment plots.
- (f) Issues relating to general site maintenance on Council managed allotments must be reported to the Business Support Team (Allotments) or via the Association where appropriate.

7 Monitoring

- (a) The Business Support Team (Allotments) and/or where appropriate, members of the Association shall be entitled to carry out general inspections (at their discretion) of all allotment plots. The purpose of these inspections will be to assess whether sufficient progress is being made to reach and maintain the agreed cultivation and maintenance standards, as well as noting any non-conformance of rules and regulations.
- (b) Tenants who fail to meet the required standards will receive a first warning letter advising that issues must be rectified within 14 days. If the issue is not rectified within the specified deadline, or no response is received the Council or Association shall issue a formal notice advising that the tenancy will be terminated within 40 days from the letter date. If there is still no response a final notice will be issued confirming that the tenancy has been terminated.
- (c) The tenant will be notified in writing to vacate their allotment plot and where applicable return their key(s) to the Business Support Team (Allotments).
- (d) The tenant is responsible for any remediation work or waste disposal and the costs thereof required to be undertaken by the Council and/or Association.
- (e) Any tenant who has been issued with a previous warning in a 12 month rolling period, will immediately be issued with a final warning on the second occasion.
- (f) Any tenant who has been issued with two prior warnings within a 12 month rolling period will automatically have their allotment tenancy terminated on the third occasion.
- (g) Issues relating to a tenant's gross misconduct such as theft or inappropriate behaviour

will be referred to the Business Support Team (Allotments). In such circumstances the Council reserves the right to terminate the allotment tenancy immediately.

- (h) In the event of any dispute regarding the interpretation of these rules, the matter shall be referred to the Business Support Team (Allotments). The Council shall have regard to the 2015 Act and any Regulations in arriving at its decision.

8 Miscellaneous

- (a) The foregoing allotment rules and regulations supersede any other rules and regulations previously made in respect of allotment plots on Council owned land within the Scottish Borders area.
- (b) The Scottish Borders Council reserves the right to amend the Rules and Regulations in accordance with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Notes to Allotment Plot Holders

These rules are made to help ensure that every tenant gets the best results and enjoyment from their allotment plot. It is in the tenant's interests to ensure that these are adhered to.

For information and assistance, tenants are encouraged to join the onsite allotment association where one is provided and seek advice/guidance from other professional gardening bodies where appropriate. Additionally, the Council's Business Support Team (Allotments) and/or the relevant management committee will be pleased to help with any queries you may have.

Holidays and Illness

In the event of longer term holidays or illness, please notify the Business Support Team (Allotments) or management committee in advance as there may be someone willing to tend your allotment plot in your absence. If you are unable to cultivate your allotment in accordance with the rules because of illness or personal difficulties, the Council will, where possible take personal situations into account. However, we are obliged to ensure that plots are being managed appropriately for the sake of neighbouring tenants or those on the waiting list and any action can only be deferred for up to one calendar month to ensure that allotment plots do not fall into a poor state or have a detrimental impact on neighbouring plots. It is a tenant's responsibility to seek assistance to keep an allotment plot in an acceptable condition otherwise there is a risk of having the tenancy agreement terminated.

Contact Details

All correspondence should be addressed to PLACE, Business Support, Council Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells, MELROSE, TD6 0SA. Telephone 0300 100 1800 or or email placebookings@scotborders.gov.uk.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs, Telephone 0300 100 1800 or email placebookings@scotborders.gov.uk

APPENDIX 3 – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK SUMMARY

SCOTTISH BORDERS FOOD GROWING STRATEGY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The consultation ran for 12 weeks from 24 July to 16 October 2019 and was promoted to all Community Councils, In Bloom groups, some 3rd sector organisations and publicly via a press release (30 July) and via website and social media. The total number of respondents was 300. The breakdown of responses can be summarised as follows;

Locality	No. responses
Berwickshire	43
Cheviot	39
Eildon	126
Teviot & Liddesale	37
Tweeddale	54
Other	1

The following is a breakdown of the responses received.

Do you grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers?

	Number	%
No	48	16%
Yes	252	84%
If yes, in what kind of space do you grow your own vegetables, herbs, fruit or flowers (Note: respondent can select multiple answers)?		
Own garden	224	75%
Someone else's garden	13	4%
Allotment	39	13%
Community Garden	20	7%
Back green	1	<1%
School garden	10	3%
Orchard	5	2%
Other (including: My own garden and polytunnel; Pots at front of house; local gardens, farmland; Ruberslaw Wild Woods Camping site; HAPI project at KEC; A few pots by the back door for herbs ; Planters in front of house for flowers; In my flat; on our farm; School for adult education and retreat centre; Hospital garden; Only in pots; community garden at my work in Edinburgh; partner's garden; projects in gardens of care homes and day centres for elderly; Fruit and vegetables are grown for visitors and guests and students of the school; Rented land from Buccleuch Estates; Pick from wild; The walled garden in Hawick as a volunteer)	20	7%

What is stopping you growing your own vegetables, fruit, flowers or herbs? (Note: respondent can select multiple answers)

	Number	%
No garden	11	23%
Can't get an allotment	14	29%
Don't know how/lack of skills	23	48%
Time	10	21%
Tools (lack of)	13	27%
Lack of community support/interest	6	12%
Lack of volunteers	0	0%
Nothing!	2	4%
Other (including: No information on who to contact regarding our local allotments; My garden isn't big enough and is North facing; Need help to clear overgrown garden to start this as I'm disabled; Gardens produce garden waste it's difficult to dispose of garden	9	19%

<i>waste; Lack of space in garden; Shared garden with neighbours; Just moved house, not organised yet but I plan to; I've got a few but not very much and would like to grow more; I don't have an allotment at the moment however I would like to have one; Cost. Grow a few herbs but would like to grow vegetables; Would like to put in raised beds in my garden to do this but it's expensive to set up with good top soil etc.; Waiting to move into my house; Physical disability)</i>		
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Would you like to grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers?

Yes	49
Percentage of respondents (48) who are not currently growing their own produce	100%

What support, if any, do you need to grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers?

	Number	%
Funding advice	75	25%
Support for growing activities	125	42%
Help to find suitable land	83	28%
Help to get a group started locally	59	20%
Other (Including: <i>Advice on eco/perma culture and planting schedule for all year growth; Discount on Council Tax for helping the planet etc.; I like the idea of a community garden as many don't have suitable or enough garden space; Seed and plant share; Seed & plant swaps; reliable source of compost; Growing advice; Information on soil quality, what grows well here, when to start planting etc would be great; Compost cones are useful and I use 2 or 3 of them; Connection to a permaculture resource to work out how to optimally set up our garden for 'no till' gardening to grow fruit and veg and encourage wildlife; Access to compost created from SBC collected green waste; Education on how to grow food effectively, just going on trial and error at the moment!; An advice hub or space tailored to local conditions; Advice on pests and feeding; Expertise; The community orchard would benefit from funding; Funding for seeds etc; Accessibility; Commune gardens are needed in all areas; More ground; Help with how to do container gardening; Education and networking with other growers; Possibly advice on how to stop the plants from being eaten by slugs and other predators; Any assistance to generate locally grown fruit and vegetables will surely be helpful; Advice on growing eg when something goes wrong with gardening there is nobody local to speak to. I have surplus seed each year, maybe a local seed sharing scheme? Local access to information and advice about growing (there aren't any old gardeners to ask!). A seed sharing facility, I have surplus seed each year and would happily share with others.; None personally but a number of people need full support; Advice/mentoring; There are no allotments at all near here and I would love one; A local allotment space would be great to be able to grow more veg etc.; Help to find suitable land.; I would like to extend my garden but I need to apply to SBC for a change of use which will cost me money; Green waste compost delivered cheaply; New gardeners need easily available information about how to grow different types of fruits and vegetables, soil requirements etc; troubleshooting; Would be great if we could get free top soil and</i>	75	25%

<p><i>access to recycled wood to create raised beds in the garden (bad back so difficult to grow at ground level); No help required as shown by my parents; Help with infrastructure - there is no bus route. ; Info on continuing to garden with back or other problems; connecting with volunteers; have a walled garden that I would like to utilise for community purposes; We're doing just fine, thank you; Allotment space in Newcastleton; Help to build containers; a way of donating excesses, especially of apple varieties, possibly in exchange for occasional help in the garden; Practical advice; Advice on which vegetables are most suitable for this climate.; could council sell reduced cost compost from garden recycling; How to start - no idea what I need! Advice about where in my garden is suitable; Need to get allotments properly maintained and rabbits exterminated.; A tool library would be useful; I need a couple of gardeners (am old); advice regarding tackling problems that prevent successful growth; I would like to start a community garden; Education; Advice; I need to know more about growing food successfully in the Borders climate; Interested in local growing around me.)</i></p>		
None	14	5%

Do you have any other comments regarding food growing in the Scottish Borders you would like to make?

<p>We have struggled the last 2 or 3 years to grow as my husband, who is the gardener really, has been very ill. We previously grew potatoes, carrots, onions, herbs, raspberries as well as the apples, rhubarb, and blackberries - that are still trying with little intervention.</p>
<p>We have tried for a couple of years to get a community allotment and a community garden set up in Chirnside but the council have not managed to find us any ground to site these on. We have approached local land owners and have managed on our own to get a site that is suitable. We still need to find assistance with the legalities of creating a lease with the landowner as land agents and solicitors dealing with this seem to be few and far between making the transition to opening the land up for production a very slow one, there also a lack of easily accessible information on what funding might be available and what it can be used for. We need help with boundaries. Many of the discussions we have already been able to have ourselves with neighbours to the plot but more assistance would make it an easier transition.</p>
<p>I would love to start a community vegetable garden in Jedburgh.</p>
<p>i have horticulture qualifications and previously worked for the national trust as an organic vegetable gardener. i would love to set up a csa or other kind of community growing veg box scheme or farm. however i have found it difficult to find support on start up and funding options and finding land available to set something like this up.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>It should be encouraged with subsidised Growers' Markets, seeds and compost to get would be gardeners going. Monthly 'garden waste' collections would be very helpful for key 8 months of the year. Shared Community Gardens are excellent for town/village situations. Regular Newsletter with planting and subsidy advice. Occasional social events. Open gardens focusing on allotments, veg patches and polytunnels/greenhouses. Helping gardeners to establish support networks.</p>
<p>More teaching of skills in schools, day centres etc to inspire anyone to realise what they can grow, even in a wee window box.</p>
<p>Although a lot of people in the area do grow their own produce, It has been requested several times</p>

<p>from the community about the possibility of allotments, unfortunately there has never been suitable ground found !</p>
<p>Local knowledge workshops on how to grow with the seasons etc. Maybe a Facebook page local to here to keep people in contact and to establish a knowledge resource people could tap into. More local allotments would also be good</p>
<p>I believe there are ample suitable sites that could be turned into community growing spaces or allotments which are currently sitting as unused whilst the demand for an allotment comes with a 3 year wait. My allotment is private but I would love to be part of a community space to share knowledge and expertise. I believe growing your own food is a fundamental activity to health and well-being and in reality is very simple. I believe a lot more people could be encouraged to get involved with some help and advice from the local authority.</p>
<p>It's very rewarding and the taste is so good on anything home grown and it can be as good as a gym workout at times. What better than sitting in the garde on a summer afternoon admiring the garden?</p>
<p>I grow flowers and herbs but have yet to grow veggies. Advice on where to start would be great. What will work in our area etc. We have a massive problem with slugs which is why I've not started. Starting a community where we can all share advice would be great.</p>
<p>More support is needed to encourage people to grow - I think maybe combining growing with other initiatives such as mental health groups, women groups, older persons social groups-buddying up or organising growing sessions to help people get started and interested in growing. Could also be directed towards health benefits or get businesses involved e.g. local cafes? I have an older friend that visits and helps me regularly and he has lost weight, improved his diet and without being involved he would be very inactive so the social side of it is maybe a way in?</p>
<p>Gardening skills are being lost and there are few people who grow anything never mind food growing. It would be good to see some form of nursery/primary education earlier on this, and then later in school perhaps as part of home economics/biology. It would also be beneficial for local resident growers to be encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise to their communities and for suitable community garden areas to be identified and created. Due to space I only have some raspberry canes and windowsill herbs. Low maintenance and don't take up too much room. I'm not very green fingered and would love to have the resources and time to grow more.</p>
<p>We have a large walled fruit and vegetable garden which could be used for community use or dementia friendly activity space for growing . At present it is full of weeds. We have actively tried over the years to get groups interested in our garden</p>
<p>a showcase other than through BOG. Not everyone can entirely organic. a local gardening show perhaps. School competitions other than going up to Edinburgh events.</p>
<p>It would be fantastic if the Duns/Berwick area had allotment space for community groups or individuals to rent and grow their own fruit and vegetables. We dont have a garden and right now our nearest allotment is pretty far away!</p>
<p>Unused unproductive land can be beneficial to the community to grow their own as well as be positive to their well being but equally areas should be allowed to remain or return to nature to help protect our much needed pollinators.</p>
<p>Investment in community garden increased</p>
<p>Lots of people growing own but needs a cooperative type society to promote sharing/exchanging produce as well as seeds/seedlings/cuttings/tools etc. Hooking up individuals and groups to benefit from greater buying power for things like seeds, fleece, netting etc. Buying in bulk and splitting costs. Also routes to providing community shops with excess fruit/veg/flowers in a sustainable way.</p>
<p>I think this is incredibly important - for people to gain knowledge on providing food for themselves in a healthy, affordable and sustainable way. It's better for our health & for the planet. I'm very much in support of this strategy and look forward to seeing what happens, and would love to learn more about it. People are too out of touch with where their food comes from, and I think the most important thing to consider here is engaging & educating communities on the benefits of growing our</p>

own food.
Like to see schools and community projects getting more involved. Also locality groups to swap excess produce and ensure no waste.
I am fortunate and have lots of room to compost etc. I think people in town struggle with dealing with the volume of green waste from gardens and may be put off growing their own fruit and vegetables because of this.
We badly need to grow more food here. When I first came to the Borders I assumed that there would be plenty of crops grown for food. Now I know it's a total food desert, monopolised by the supermarkets who want us to rely on them for an ever-declining choice of real food...buying anything organic or local is almost out of the question. There needs to be more guidance and help for grow your own projects so we all have real choices. So much land in so few hands, so little choice.
We need less housing and more allotments and land to grow in and around Peebles or Tweeddale.
It would be good to see more smaller food growing areas e.g. where there are currently grassy utility strips in residential areas and road sides/roundabouts so everyone is nearer to a community garden that's easily accessible to them. The focus should be on perennial forest garden style planting which maximises the yield while minimising the input/maintenance required e.g. fruit and nut trees (hazelnuts, beech nuts, walnuts, apples, pears, plums, damson, quince, mulberry, desert cherries etc), fruit bushes (gooseberries, jostaberries, red currants, white currants, black currants, blueberries etc) and canes (raspberries, blackberries, tayberries, loganberries etc), rhubarb and ground cover plants instead of grass e.g. wild/alpine strawberries. Primarily perennial herbs e.g. rosemary, thyme, chives, lovage, Angelica, lemon balm etc. It's important that communal food garden areas are well labelled with the common name of the plants along with an ID guide and potentially some suggested uses to encourage this less confident gardeners/foragers to make use of the spaces.
I have really benefited from growing my own fruit and veg not only economically but health wise too. Great being outdoors and enjoying the produce and sharing with neighbours too .
The intense pleasure you get going round the supermarket and not having to buy fruit, veggies, jams etc !!
Great that this is being encouraged. More allotments would be a really positive development. We have had recent problems with poor quality and herbicide-contaminated compost. Council could be supplying locally made quality compost?
We don't really fit into your questionnaire but there are over 100 members of the Border Beekeepers Association in the Borders, and also a large association in Peebles, most of whom are producing honey. We mostly sell at our doors or in local shops. The production of local honey is much welcomed by local residents and tourists alike.
I don't feel like there is enough allotments in the Scottish Borders.
I would like to see a community orchard established in Lauder.
I think it's more and more important for anyone who has space to grown their own, even if it's just a pot of herbs. However, it seems quite daunting and difficult, so some sort of mentoring scheme might be good where experienced Gardeners' give advice to novices. Also would be good if Scot borders council tax payers can get free compost from the green garden waste we deliver to the recycling facilities- I haven't got composting facilities but supply loads of green stuff which gets turned into compost by a commercial company. I think there is a real willingness for people to reconnect with the land - because of brexit, concern about packaging and environment, and the health benefits of growing your own. Maybe a website with local resources and advice for our particular region and weather - gardening programmes and magazines don't really reflect our Scottish conditions. I'm totally passionate about all this, as you might be able to tell!! I would be very willing to help with any projects- please Keep me updated!
It would be a good idea to plant edible planters around villages and towns encouraging people to help themselves. This would generate interest in growing food for all age groups and would encourage youngsters to eat fresh fruit and vegetables. The planters would look good as well.

<p>We would love some communal space to grow veg in Eddleston - my kids love the idea of growing their own.</p>
<p>There used to be allotments but they were all sold off for housing. Many gardens are too small and people want more to be able to grow veg. There is lots of 'wasted' land that could be used. Make it available and support communities to take part and grow veg - not just flowers</p>
<p>The growing of food needs to be linked to the preparation of food. It's also good to be aware of the health and carbon benefits.</p>
<p>I have been involved with growing vegetables, fruit and flowers first with my father with an allotment in Galashiels which he lost as the ground was sold for housing. I obtained an allotment plot at Galashiels Sewage Works which I worked until ground taken by Scottish Water when they expanded their site at Netherdale. Then in home garden land until the present so have years of experience growing the above which has been picked up by two of my sons so they are now following the family tradition. Our first family allotment was developed by my grandfather just after WW2 ended.</p>
<p>I also volunteer with the local Yetholm Primary School at their allotment patch and to grow herbs etc in the school grounds</p>
<p>The Council in their wisdom several years ago planted trees in and around new developments, these trees should have been fruit trees.</p>
<p>With so much "waste" land within the borders towns it would be a great advantage to see community gardens within housing areas, perhaps close to play parks or sporting fields, to involve the entire community in growing and maintaining these areas as both educational and recreational areas.</p>
<p>There is absolutely no effort on behalf of the local authorities to encourage home and community food growing. First step should be to fund and develop community groups to coordinate what land, people, equipment, seeds etc. are available to each community, ascertain need and desire to grow, and look to have a minimal input of food into the community from the community. This could all be funded through a local levy on land occupied by supermarkets and their profits.</p>
<p>Is there a worker to co ordinate the allotments/ community garden schemes in the Borders. We could then have a network which might support us in our growing and could encourage new folks</p>
<p>There are not enough allotments here with facilities such as car park areas, storage, running water and toilets. Land should be identified for possible allotment use but not land that is identified in the Local Plan for possible future house building as users may be unwilling to commit to buying sheds and turning waste land into productive food growing areas only to find that the next year it is wanted for housing.</p>
<p>I take it this the results of this survey may contribute to the self sufficiency which will be required when we crash out of the European Union with a No Deal Brexit. Back to the days of 'Dig for Victory'! I hope the Tory administration of the Scottish Borders appreciates the dire consequences of Tory government policies on Scotland's economy and well being!</p>
<p>It would be good to have a group to advise on how best to use land for growing. We have a few acres but don't grow food. There must be many others in the Borders who could benefit from advice and sharing of ideas</p>
<p>Encourage people to join Borders Organic Growers.</p>
<p>sharing of information on when to plant seedlings, plant out etc for successful veg growing in the local area</p>
<p>Think it's a good idea we are lucky have the community shed with its garden in Selkirk nice if other town had the same opportunity</p>
<p>I have previously had an allotment which is great for people in smaller houses/gardens and excellent as when circumstances change the allotment passes to others with no drama. I do grow a few fruit trees which is a bit of work at times actually and not for everyone. It is nice to get fruit but it can be variable and veg too is more of an interest and a token gesture than really high levels of production. The growing of herbs is straightforward but after nearly 40 years of being a gardener of some type growing vegetables is still a challenge at times with pests and the labour involved and actually farmers are probably better at it than me so good to support local farms such as Standhill tomatoes etc Border Berries is the best of both worlds where people can be actively involved picking etc with no commitment until the day. Maybe different ways might be to have some veg box schemes etc?</p>

<p>It is essential that community gardens and gardeners are supported to garden without chemicals where possible, particularly when children are involved. Skills and techniques are often lost in favour of a blunt instrument like pesticides or herbicides.</p>
<p>Make composters freely available to all. Start a fruit and veg giveaway point so that those who produce too much can give to those who cannot provide for themselves</p>
<p>There are probably thousands of people in the borders who would jump at the chance to get into this. If they are like me then what would get them moving is personal contact with others and a local community of some kind.</p>
<p>It would be great if we had some allotment space in our Village. I know there are many people who would be interested.</p>
<p>It is important that people can have the opportunity to grow their own and that help and advice to do so is available from school age and onwards. There are many benefits!</p>
<p>there are many spaces in villages and towns that would be good to utilise - close to interested parties, makes the villages and towns look tidier and prettier and would allow all ages and abilities to get involved</p>
<p>We used to take part in a community growing initiative at Whitmuir Organic Farm called 2000m squared. This was a great family and community activity and was the only way we had access to fresh vegetables a couple of summers ago when we unfortunately had to rely on food bank parcels for a while. Unfortunately the funding for this project ended (climate challenge fund I think?) and it was discontinued. But the land (3 or 4 big polytunnels and a field donated by the farm) is still there and could be utilised to grow a lot of food for the local community if there were only some funding available for someone to run it. It might be a worthwhile project for the council to look into to maximise growing in the Tweeddale area, Whitmuir Organic Farm are always looking for partners.</p>
<p>Whitmuir had a great programme including composting that's lapsed.</p>
<p>We would be keen to have an allotment should one become available</p>
<p>There is insufficient allotment provision in Innerleithen - all comments say its impossible to get one of the 6 available in Miller Street.</p> <p>I believe many members of the community would benefit from reduced isolation, better physical and mental health as well as the satisfaction & joy of producing flowers, fruit & vegetables .</p> <p>Experience at Walkerburn Allotment site shows that siting needs to be carefully considered to avoid steep gradients, and to ensure the soil can be worked (its no good dropping a load of top soil once).</p>
<p>The main issue is finding a committed/consistent community who think differently. Crailing Community Orchard has a very small but dedicated group of volunteers and we have managed to find an outlet for the orchard's produce. However, it's always precarious. People are busy and often gardening is a refuge from work so committing to work with others can be difficult. It seems to me there's an opportunity to share growing in small villages but promoting the ideas is a challenge.</p>
<p>Small plot between our and next doors (was Waterboard owned, until sold at auction). Purchaser was denied planning permission for a dwelling house, irrevocably, eventually, as it is situated on a blind corner on a B road. The plot is now dilapidated, totally overgrown and possibly dangerous. Would make an ideal community allotment if it could be compulsory purchased.</p>
<p>It would be great to have a community allotment space in our village in Oxton, scottish borders.</p>
<p>I am lucky enough to have my own garden but in the past I have benefitted from allotment sites- I think the chance to have an allotment at a cheap rent is a great opportunity for people in urban areas (and a nice community thing as well). Community orchards and gardens are also valuable but they require more organisation (committees of volunteers and group equipment etc) and therefore more funding.</p>
<p>Some unused allotments still have occupants who are possibly ageing. Would it be possible to suggest that these allotments are shared, or ask if the holders would accept assistance with working them for a share of the produce? They could share their knowledge and expertise with people new to growing.</p>

<p>Some allotments or under used land around towns could be used as micro allotments, perhaps grouped together, so that people with less available time or less growing experience could get started on growing their own food on a small patch.</p>
<p>In Hawick there are many untended small pieces of land around town. Some could be used as vegetable growing areas but would possibly need appropriate fences and gates. Some are too small for that use but could still be planted with such things as herbs and wild flowers to support bees and other pollinators. There are also many areas of hard standing where raised beds could be located for growing produce.</p>
<p>Could SBC be pro-active when suitable land is identified and leaflet surrounding residential properties inviting people to get together to explore using patches of land for growing as a community? Could housing associations be encouraged to undertake a similar approach?</p>
<p>we use our patch to encourage people with disabilities to grow and eat more healthy foods</p>
<p>Whilst there is a variety of community gardens locally, I am unable to participate/volunteer as work full-time and there is no provision outwith these times.</p>
<p>More funding and promoting needs to be addressed, especially towards school projects and wildflowers</p>
<p>I have space in my garden that I would like to use to grow veg but am not very confident, would be great if I could pair up with someone who has experience and knowledge but no longer has space/land so we could perhaps work together.</p>
<p>I was previously offered an allotment 2019 but declined as I was thinking of moving out with the area. I would like to have moving. I used to have a very large vegetable plot, strawberry patch, apple and pear trees, sift fruits and rhubarb. I would love to grow all this again!</p>
<p>I would like the provision of an allotment near me in oxton</p>
<p>I love my allotment and want to convert the space to make it wheelchair accessible from the main road. It is so satisfying to grow produce and eat the results.</p>
<p>More allotments for people without gardens would be great. With support to learn and also to cook. Community orchards would also be amazing and great for the environment. Would be good to have spaces like these near lay areas to help children get involved</p>
<p>I set up a social enterprise Food Communities Ltd in 2017 and have been focused for some time on trying to help make truly local, non packaged, organic food become the norm. I have organised various events such as food swaps, talks and garden visits and have set up three community gardens in Tweeddale using private shared land. I also help grow food in two further private gardens and my own allotment. There are various Food Community Facebook groups across the Borders with around 2000 members right now pooling and sharing information and resources (knowledge, skills, tools, plants, seeds, materials, produce, etc) to grow, forage, preserve and cook more food in their communities. This year I have been selling some of the fruit, veg and herbs via local greengrocers. I am very keen to speak with Scottish Borders Council about a new food strategy and can be contacted on info@foodcommunities.org.</p>
<p>I work with Abundant Borders to create a network of community food gardens across the Scottish Borders. The community food gardens are training bases for people to learn how to grow food in a sustainable way and then how to turn that food into healthy, inexpensive meals. Our aim is that everyone, regardless of personal circumstances, should have access to healthy, nutritious food.</p> <p>From a practical point of view, we teach up to 15 people at a time the skills needed to grow their own food. Many don't have access to garden space, so we base the training on a piece of community land. These small pieces of land, previously underused or derelict are turned into productive use for community benefit.</p> <p>Knowing how to grow food is only part of the picture so we then teach how to cook healthy, inexpensive meals from the food grown or sourced locally.</p>

<p>The final piece of the jigsaw is long-term support for participants, volunteers and the community. Having created a community food garden as part of the food growing course, participants can stay engaged with and continue to work in the garden. Some of the people involved have little hope of full or even part-time employment so access to local volunteering opportunities is crucial.</p> <p>We would appreciate support in growing the project, specifically helping communities find land on which to create community gardens.</p>
<p>I get advice online about sowing/planting times and know season is relatively short compared to much of UK because of height above sea level. Personally, I would love more information on earliest/latest sowing dates and reliable information about what can be overwintered.</p>
<p>We need land reform, fairer distribution of land ownership alongside a shift from intensive agriculture to smaller scale farms/smallholdings. We need to grow food within residential areas and encourage people to be more self sufficient, reducing food miles and food waste as well as reducing our dependence on fossil fuels to transport food.</p> <p>Reforestation, rewilding grouse moors would have massive environment benefits.</p> <p>Current land use benefits the already affluent few, with no regard to the devastating environmental impact.</p>
<p>Anything that can be done to encourage people to grow their own food is good.</p>
<p>There's a lack of allotments in West Linton - in fact there's none. Not sure where they could go but it would be good to get some land to have them. There was an initiative at Whitmuir Farm for Community land, but this ran out of funding. If the funding could be found again then it could restart.</p>
<p>A seed exchange/ seedlings would be great always have too much of one thing none of another. Community compost would be great too so many people bin green waste so a separate collection with composting would be great and could sell compost</p>
<p>There are no allotment spaces in West Linton even tho most properties have small garden spaces.</p>
<p>The Croft land opposite us used to be a market garden before the Council made the appalling decision to allow houses to be built on it. It would be good to have lots of smallish areas dedicated to allotments so that they are convenient and close by.</p> <p>If you took a couple of fields (like the ones above the Croft, currently used for a handful of grazing cows) and made hundreds of little raised beds in them, you could employ a couple of workers to help oversee it all. You could allocate a raised bed to every household nearby, so those households could be largely self-sufficient in fresh, organic food. The two workers could help train everyone in how to grow in their raised beds (ie crop rotation etc), harvests could be pooled together so that all families could have a good veg box each week. Surplus could be sold.</p> <p>There could be space for bees and hens/eggs.</p> <p>Families could contribute a certain amount each year as part of the scheme. It would all be local, no food miles, and local people would have food security and could eat better.</p> <p>I have thought about this a lot as I walk past the fields watching cows taking up so much space when we can't get local organic food here.</p>
<p>I really like the idea of community gardens, I am not aware of any in West Linton. There is a perfect patch of land at the foot of school brae, near the health centre.</p> <p>I wonder if schemes exist where owners of large gardens 'donate' space for allotment-style patches to groups/families who don't have growing space (?)..</p> <p>Growing food should be taught in schools.</p>
<p>There is a small stretch of land, presently up for sale that could be turned into a veg garden around the corner from St Romans' old folks home. If it was cultivated it would also be a great place for resident to come and enjoy.</p>
<p>Our fairly small garden in Langlee is used creatively to produce a variety of fruit and veg. We are self sufficient until around Christmas for a number of things, potatoes, onions, garlic, jam from blackcurrant and cider made from apples amongst other things. I would like to see more public land turned over to food production, even the planting of fruit bushes or apple trees etc like has been done in one of the parks in Earlston by the river. I work in food retail and am keenly aware of how</p>

<p>vulnerable the food supply chain is to sudden and unexpected shocks. Learning food growing skills is both useful and therapeutic and I believe there is a huge potential to tap into.</p>
<p>We don't have a large garden in Langlee, but we use the space we have creatively to enable us to be self sufficient with a number of fruit and veg for part of the year eg potatoes, onions, garlic, jam from blackcurrants, cider from apples, preserves and other produce. I would like to see more public land being turned over to local food production, even if it only planting fruit bushes and apple trees (like has been done in one of the public parks in Earlston near the river).</p> <p>I work in food retail and am very much aware of how vulnerable the supply chain is to sudden shocks, as well as to things like climate change etc. Growing locally can reduce the dependence on the supply chain as well as reducing food miles to almost zero.</p> <p>Growing food is also therapeutic and great for mental health.</p> <p>Unfortunately many of the skills for growing food have been lost, but by using public space creatively, some of these skills, and others associated with them (eg preserving food) can be learned.</p>
<p>Member of Eyemouth Allotment association.</p> <p>Number of areas in Town could be adopted to grow fruit and veg.(old primary school allotment)</p> <p>I was of the understanding that the old sports pitch next to existing allotments could be adopted if demand arose. This is now to be used as a skate park made of soil,this seems both short sighted and ill thought out. Surely during winter the whole site will be awash and probably dissolve.</p>
<p>I would like to see a lot more support for organic growing. Also more places for people like me to be able to have to grow.</p>
<p>More local allotments would be great.</p> <p>I live in Ashkirk so the nearest is Selkirk - I've been on a list for just over a year so far.</p> <p>Something within walking /cycling distance would be great.</p> <p>I'm also part of Crailing Community Orchard and we'd like to see the orchard used much more for educational and cultural activities for example but require some funding for a few basics e.g. compost toilet and a simple shelter so that there is some cover for events and perhaps a part time post to generate activities and projects. We had applied for funding through the Local Regional Food Fund for a project that linked The Broomhouse Centre, Edinburgh with the orchard as a way of making links in a Geddsian way between urban and rural and which would allow us to do some basic developments at the orchard as described above. Sadly this wasn't successful as the main impetus for the funding was around tourism and although the 'tourism' was between Edinburgh and Crailing this wasn't really what they were looking for.</p> <p>Much more use could also be made of all the fruit (apples, plums etc) that are not harvested in the Borders. This could be a social enterprise project which picked, collected and then used the apples in different ways - including for those in poverty (food banks etc) or preserved as chutneys, jams etc - again a development worker would be required for something like this.</p> <p>The Scottish Borders has wonderful fertile growing land and could be growing a large amount of food (veg, herbs and fruit) for local consumption which in a time of Climate Emergency is something that should be taken very seriously. However, most of the land is used to grow grains for brewing industry or fodder for animals (both of which have value, but perhaps more land could be used to create food for local consumption. Does that mean more community growing projects perhaps alongside a way of encouraging farmers to use their land to grow food for consumption here ? Could the Council pass a policy that states that any unused land can be grown on? This has happened in Todmorton, Yorkshire for example.</p>
<p>more allotments around the borders or those who dont have the garden space</p>
<p>Looks like the enthusiasm is here in the Borders already so would be good to enhance .</p>
<p>There is a small but steady flow of people approach me personally as co-ordination of a growing space and as a community council member, who would like to have access to land to grow food but either cannot reach each other to form a pressure group and/or cannot access land as much locally which might be suitable is held in private ownership.</p>

A centrally held database of "notes of interest" might be a way of monitoring interest at a community level.
It would be great if we could use the overgrown and abandoned bits of land to grow food and flowers on. I think we need more community initiatives rather than just allotments, especially in the bigger towns in the Borders like Galashiels. I think it would also be good to hold a database or similar to show where the fruit trees and brambles are locally so people can go and pick them, I'm sure there was something national done on this a few years ago but I can't quite remember the details. I guess you would have to be careful of greedy folk stripping everything though. The council seem to be cutting their responsibilities for the upkeep of green spaces every year, it would be good if they could balance this out by offering some resource for local communities e.g. seeds, tools, growing advice etc.
Some info about the sharing of materials might be useful, e.g. - a seed cooperative - info about people who may have manure they would be happy to get rid of - ways of recycling plastic pots
I would love to have the opportunity to further my ambition, given the present political climate I feel it is imperative we learn to do this, either individually or better in a cooperative to support self and the wider community.
Your survey popped up on my Facebook at a rather auspicious moment. I live on the Balmoral estate and I am also chair on the newly formed Gala polices group whose aim it is, alongside the council and other community groups to improve, maintain and manage the policies for now and future generations. I strongly believe that starting a sustainable community garden within the balmoral estate would work perfectly with the gala policies project and would raise moral locally, offer skill sharing opportunities, tackle mental health issues as well as reducing our carbon footprint, reduce plastic use and help support those in need with a fresh and abundant source of clean food. I have been in touch with Edible estates about this very subject and I am glad I came across this survey. I have been a keen amateur grower for over 25 years, have lived and worked on a farm, worked for 15 years as chef and have been a vegetarian for many years. I would really like to speak to someone regarding this scheme as I feel that I am perfectly placed and connected to the community to help set p and maintain a sustainable community garden that could really help to solve some of the issues within the community and give hope for the future. Many thanks Bonnie Fairbrass
More support for and further events similar to BOG potato day
We grow potatoes, leeks, carrots, turnip, parsnip, lettuce, rosemary, strawberries, plums, apples, rhubarb and gooseberries.
It would be great to have schoolchildren involved in growing food. Having an allotment within school grounds. I am sure there would be volunteers from the retired community to help.
More schools should be encouraged to have a school garden and for gardening to be part of the school curriculum
I would grow a lot more food if I had an allotment plot in or near Lauder. I have a small raised bed at Drygrange but it's too far for me to really keep it up. I grow a lot in my home garden, but I could grow much more.
It would be great to find out how to grow food in a shared outdoor space with no soil or grass to plant in.
I would like greater encouragement and support from the council towards food being grown and available to buy locally, to reduce food miles - thus emitting fewer greenhouse gasses in transportation.
More allotment sites would be great, as well as the information new gardeners need to get started. It would also be extremely beneficial to encourage commercial food producers to grow in a more environmentally sympathetic and sustainable way - ideally organically. It would be truly ground breaking if SBC could push this - imagine if all produce from the Borders was certified organic! Borders-grown produce would be in serious demand, and it would also result in many more jobs, as

smaller scale and organic farms are more labour intensive. Market gardeners and other small-scale producers would have more chance of earning a good living.
To encourage others to utilise some garden space to grow their fruit and vegetables.
I would be happy to be involved in community gardens
We have a very health waitlist for plots without promoting in any way . Suggesting that there is a demand for places to grow food that is not being met
I have been an allotment holder 5 years and enjoy growing fruit and vegetables and flowers , it is a social pastime as well as very rewarding . It is also good to be able to give veg to freinds and neighbors when there is a glut .
I would like SBC to provide suitable land for allotments in the village of Stow to enable residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables.
We have allotments here if which I have one. It is productive, fun, and social.
Yes. When the Council or developers are planting trees they should (providing it is safe to do so) plant trees that provide edible fruit, nuts, berries etc. to provide free foraging opportunities. Also plant up vegetable patches for the public or to provide food for the public with some also going to local food banks. Actively promote food growing at schools to promote local food production in the future. Council parks staff could also provide advice, leaflets to promote food growing by the public.
If you could make it that any wood at recycling centres or at the council is offered up free to people to use for veg raised beds, along with free top soil for such beds that would be great. Any recycled free plastic sheeting to make small greenhouses or covers for plants would be good, as would free bark when you cut down dead trees to be used for mulching. Talks or sessions on growing veg also good as I usually kill all my plants or the bugs eat them. Maybe a seeds/cuttings exchange site or something where people could get access to free plants to start growing their veg/fruit/herbs etc.
Maybe promoting to private landlords too so that they don't have an issue with their tenants turning their gardens into allotments instead of lawns.
I have been running Lauder Primary Schools Gardening Club for the last 5 years as a volunteer. Thd garden is just for the School to use we dont have a space for growing veg as a community in Lauder and I think a Community Garden here would be well used it would just take land and people. Due to other commitments I wont be running the School Gardening Club anymore and we are struggling to find a replacement. Relying on volunteers to run garden clubs is unsustainable it's a big job and takes time and lots of it. We need the Council to be willing to see the importance of introducing children to growing and provide funding to Schools or to Community Gardens that can run sessions for Schools.
Allotment space availability in Walkerburn and Traquair House but none locally or within walking distance of house. Disappointed that I'd have to use transportation to join a growing community
I am lucky in having more than enough space in my own garden, as well as money to buy plants etc. I would love to see more people gardening. In my village, Ancrum, I also run the school gardening activities, and we have several community projects under the auspices of Go Gardening Ancrum. We can get small amounts of money for plants and compost, and we have tools. The biggest issue is not getting something started, it is getting maintenance to happen. In time, these wonderful areas of new plantings deteriorate unless people accept responsibility in the longer term. From over 10 years of experience I now believe that some regular professional input would help resolve this. If someone with knowledge and skills could come for even an hour a month from the start, and provide a long term strategy I think the problem would be massively reduced. Community gardeners come and go - they move, retire, get ill, die, get more family commitments. Someone who was paid to do long term planning would ensure that things did not collapse when the current group of enthusiastic amateurs moved on.
All for growing yer own healthy food not processed leads to healthy mind & life Then folk need be shown how cook use fresh food as surprising lots folk don't know how as we live in throw away society ping meals etc
Community garden would be fantastic
The questions in this consultation focus entirely on small scale production, with no reference to

processing, retail or distribution. There's no distinction between food growing as a therapeutic activity or hobby for self sufficiency and food growing as a source of local food for public retail or consumption. If we are to get beyond the idea that home grown food is a private activity, we have to begin to develop routes to market and an infrastructure for distribution and retail.

We could be looking at a network of growers who retail into local cafes, shops, restaurants or projects and schools. We need to be mapping land that is fit for arable production.

We could be considering using a shop frontage for the retail of locally produced veg. We could be working out the links between local growers and the local food banks - and thinking of ways of converting recipients of food parcels into producers and managers of local food.

There is no mention of collaborating with farmers - people who actually grow food for a living. We should be assessing the potential for expanding traditional upland livestock farms to include horticultural produce. We should be looking at sources for horticultural training and support (school, college, peer groups).

We should be looking at scale and market opportunity - ie can we access the public sector in terms of public procurement. The sector should be held together by more than blue string and personal friendships.

There has to be co-ordinator and collaboration or we never get beyond a very fragile food chain. We could also look at processing of local produce - preserving, pickling, cooking and freezing - but it has to be seen as a commercial activity. Food production without a customer can result in food waste.

In the present challenges which may come with Brexit, this could be an opportunity for people to develop skills in growing own food. There are many disused walled gardens which could be brought into cultivation, (my own allotment is in one) also unused plots of land within communities. Gardening is a great way to bring people together and has been used in many therapeutic situation including mental health.

Lots of schools have the space but perhaps not the time within the school day- how about school gardening clubs with volunteers to help ?

A general comment first:

Given Scotland has declared a climate emergency, it seems vital that here in the Borders our communities can become as self-sufficient in food as possible.

There are now green groups in most Border towns, all keen to raise awareness of all climate change related issues.

It would be very encouraging if the SBC could support the aims of these green groups by declaring a climate emergency.

Regarding your enquiry about food growing: Our garden here at Chisholme near Roberton has the potential to produce an abundance of good organic food. Our constraints are simply the lack of help to be able to fully develop the potential of the garden.

We would be happy to be kept in touch regarding the proposed strategy.

There is a need for more allotments. There is an ongoing battle with the owners of March Street Mill who want to build on our allotments. If I didn't have mine I wouldn't be as fit or as happy.

I have a very small garden, and would like an allotment in Stow where my family and I can grow fruit and vegetables to feed ourselves and to give to friends, neighbours, etc.

I don't drive so it would ideally need to be within walking distance of the village. There is a lot of grazing land in the valley either side of the village which could be used for allotments, but I presume it is privately owned. The Gala Water seems to flood occasionally, so a sloping site on the side of the valley would presumably be better.

A number of other families and individuals in Stow are also keen to have allotments.

There is a lot of vacant little spaces of land - often left to go wild - that people could use as allotments. You don't need a lot of space to grow vegetables etc. Look at the back of the parish church in Selkirk.
wOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENS
Food growing improves both mental and physical health. Food growing would encourage community engagement and develop skills covering all ages and genders
I think it would be lovely for people to be supported and encouraged to grow their own vegetables, fruit, herbs. It needs discussion and insight into each individual's life, preferences, abilities, needs to be successful and rewarding. Hope it all works well.
There is so many wasted gardens the local authorities should approach these tenants and ask them to lease out there gardens for people who want to gto but don't have the garden
I think the community garden at Burnfoot Hub is a wonderful place to help folk to understand all concepts of growing vegetables & being encouraged to cook & eat local & home grown foods. Also to avoid waste which is so important to the environment.
Fruit grown so we can go and pick the berries and the knowledge to be shown how to freeze the fruit and use to make Chutney Jam etc..
I live in a village where Some people who have large gardens don't want to garden. I would like to see more schemes developed where folk who want to garden but have no (or too little) ground could be linked to larger garden owners. Crops could be shared with host. Secondly there seems to be another concern for Mill St Peebles allotments. These must be protected. Thirdly can there be more literature/ encouragement for gardeners to be organic Fourthly workshops to introduce people to the basics of growing food
We need somewhere to get advice for growing veg in a small area
There aren't enough allotments, and I'm finding my Housing Association wants detailed costed plans for changing the patch of grass into raised beds which they may or may not approve. Very frustrating.
Shared expertise would help. Promoting a culture of real food as opposed to processed. I think Scotland is behind much of Europe in having a high fruit and veg diet. Bartering groups to trade excess production. Advice on how produce like marrow/pumpkin which grow well in the borders can be stored and used. Oh and if you could do something about the weather.!
Considering what an amazing resource a garden, even if tiny, offers it always astonishes me how little regarded so many of them are. However, it is difficult to know how to anchor gardens and gardening back into a culture in which they flourished well into the 1900s. More school gardens? More community gardens? Travelling garden road shows?
Growing vegetables outside is fraught with difficulty particularly if you have no background in gardening. It is also expensive if you have to protect plants from wildlife and if you wish to be organic. I manage in most years to grow simple vegetables such as potatoes, marrows and beans but I struggle to extend the growing period and to deal with gluts - I regularly try to give away gluts via our local shop but usually don't succeed. One area I feel needs to be explored is how gardeners can give away gluts to the wider community.
I would like advice on how to grow my own fruit vegetables and flowers Thanks
Hiw to protect plants from agricultural chemicals (live next to a field)
Why dont SBC take on some of the gardens that are full of weeds or not being used in some of their tenants houses. There are a lot of people who would like a nice garden but dont have the time to do it.
Although the community garden I run is in Edinburgh I'd like to do more in my community in Earlston to link up with the growers here and share things like tools, knowledge, ideas, swapping surplus veg etc. Some kind of website for communicating when we can't all meet up face to face would be great.
I'd like to be more confident of growing enough to freeze, and then use for the rest of the year. As it is, with a small plot, I get barely more than we can eat as we go along.
It is said that it is easy to grow: plant the seeds and water. Not my experience. Issues of growing vegies in a short growing season without a polytunnel, plant rotation and dealing with slug infestations and other animals and insects which won't share the harvest with the gardner are deterrents. Oh yes and the time it takes.....and then there's only a small harvest .

<p>I am fortunate to have a bit of a garden. There are only about 6 allotments in Innerleithen. They are badly managed with 2 of them not being looked after/ cultivated at all and yet I was told there was a waiting list of at least 6 years. In Peebles there are quite a lot of allotments but the same situation exists, poor management , some plots allowed to go unattended, plots are very big and could easily be split in 2 as they come up to allow more people to have some growing space . Council could be much more active in cutting less grass in the big parks which would be much better for wildlife and attract pollinating insects and save money and planting fruit trees in the parks and open spaces.</p>
<p>Yes, you should know that Morebattle villagers own a series of some 18 small plots at the north end of the village, small fields called PILMUIRS. This is a very special situation and so far as I know, the only one left in Scotland. Anybody interested in gardening can readily ask around and someone will direct them to some land to use. it is impossible to unscramble who owns which small field. Any attempt to untangle this will be defeated.</p> <p>I gather one person owns several. Another has been planted with trees. Several have been put together. This is the possible subject of a social historian dissertation actually.</p> <p>The houses in the village street were mainly those who were allocated pilmuirs, I think in the late 18th century, when a local laird, marquess of Tweedsdale?, stopped owning the village. I am uncertain about the veracity of this but it the little fields are an interesting phenomenon.</p> <p>In my (ex-Manse)garden, I grow vegetables and there is always a small extra plot in which others sometimes have grown their own.</p>
<p>Morebattle is unique in owning about 18 small fields called Pilmuirs, first distributed to the houses in the village in the 1790s I believe. The ownership of these is now impossibly tangled. If people want to grow, they can always ask around and someone will direct them to the possibility of using one. Several have been put together. One person owns several I gather. One has been planted with trees, now bulging.</p> <p>I have a substantial exManse garden and with help grow my own veg. There is a small extra plot which can be used by neighbours.</p>
<p>Schools should have mandatory access to a poly tunnel so that food can be grown successfully within the school term. Educating children on how to grow food will stay with them forever.</p>
<p>Especially at this time of climate crisis, it's very important that people are encouraged to grow their own food. It's also a valuable learning and social experience.</p> <p>We garden the Secret Garden, one of the community gardens in Peebles and we welcome anyone who would like to visit, garden, learn or simply sit and enjoy.</p> <p>We have just produced (with funding and help from Out of the Box's dementia project) a colourful leaflet giving information about all the volunteering opportunities in the community gardens in Peebles and Innerleithen and we would welcome SBC's help in publicising it.</p> <p>Thank you Lesley Morriosn 07792932406</p>
<p>It should be open to all regardless of socioeconomic status or age/ability etc. I am involved in intergenerational projects which help strengthen links between young and old and make everyone feel included and useful. I have seen such projects benefit people living with dementia and school pupils who are excluded from mainstream education. At the moment the projects rely on external funding but they make an important contribution to the work of health and social services. Time spent in green places = better physical wellbeing + better emotional and mental wellbeing.</p>
<p>I currently have my own allotment and enjoy growing my own food/flowers.</p> <p>I also lead on a mental health growing project next to Huntlyburn Ward in Melrose..</p> <p>I would like to see the project and Huntlyburn link into growing projects throughout the Borders to help people develop the ability, nurture an interest and produce home grown vegetables/fruit. In the current political climate and with mental health and wellbeing big topics, this is an area that builds community, enhances resilience and helps create sustainability.</p> <p>The Gala Resource Centre also has a garden space where we have been working with the people who use the centre to grow vegetables and herbs.</p>
<p>We need more community gardens, orchards and other growing spaces.</p>

<p>We need to have less persistent herbicide (like RoundUp/glyphosate) sprayed around our streets and green spaces.</p>
<p>Chemical farming in the area should be discouraged in favour of more sustainable and productive methods.</p>
<p>As growers there is at times surplus. It would be good if there was a local network for sales or distribution.</p>
<p>Land needs to be close to ones residence. Mine is across a minor road with no water supply.</p>
<p>It is so rewarding to grow and eat your own produce and well worth the effort. I did help on the Community Plot at Walkerburn Allotments, but my husband created a vegetable plot in our garden, so I grow my vegetables there now.</p>
<p>Would like to ideal start my own fruit and veg growing business but not through normal ways, through hydroponics which involves grown just in water, no soil used at all</p>
<p>There's a real chance to establish the borders as a destination for locally grown produce. If the council helps town/ village market days could be established to sell/ advertise local growth like a car boot sale. There are some sites for potential development, what about waste land in between places.... eg along the Cuddy in Peebles, plant brambles and wild raspberry's and elderflower. They'll look after themselves and be available for all. There's a field on Venlaw which keeps having planning permission turned down. It would make a great community orchard!</p>
<p>Community growing I think would be a great idea . It cuts down food miles, educates people especially children how easy and cheaply food can be grown. A good way to get people working together and a great feeling of achievement</p>
<p>It would great if the council could create spaces in the locality for allotment plots that would enable people to grow their own, house plots are not big enough to allow people to grow fruit and vegetables.</p>
<p>Allotment space should be more readily available. The council should be taking a lead in this. The health benefits ,both physical and mental , from gardening have been identified in many studies.</p>
<p>Not at this stage</p>
<p>Just to say there should be a lot more of it for groups and individuals to take back control of the way we we eat and live in the borders</p>
<p>Very worthwhile and enjoyable on several levels - interaction with others, fresh air, enjoyable product, and can also from time to time help SBC garden staff.</p>
<p>Need more allotments</p>
<p>Growing foodstuffs should be part of the curriculum and schools should have a space available, such as an allotment area. This would encourage children from the outset, as well as allowing them to see where some of our food comes from. Great for those studying food science to better grasp local & seasonal produce.</p>
<p>I love growing my own food but would love advice on best crops for my garden. Also interested in sharing seeds. Plants etc</p>
<p>Make more land available for allotments and less for housing in Peebles!</p>
<p>I'm sure there is a wealth of knowledge in the borders that no one is tapping and would be good to save for the next generation</p>
<p>I am aware some allotment space is not being used in Hawick yet when I went on the council site it said there was a 2 year waiting list so I made alternative arrangements further afield.</p>
<p>Every community (town and village) should have access to allotments for growing food.</p>
<p>there appear to be lots of pockets of ground beside the A1 and railway left wild which perhaps could be brought into cultivation.</p>
<p>This is a great initiative and one all schools should be involved in too. Selkirk High School have an amazing garden.</p>

Some of the available allotments in Hawick are quite inaccessible without transport or are so overgrown it puts people off. If the existing allotments were tidied up, some divided into smaller plots and had facilities for sharing tools and storage then it may be easier for people to get involved.

Changes to the climate over the next few years may see the Kalewater experience more extremes of weather. This year an unusually warm Spring boosted some areas of fruit production, but an even supply of water will be key to trying to manage even the small family-sized gardens which probably form the bulk of community growing in the absence of allotments. A distribution of water butts and assistance for the elderly/disabled to install these to take advantage of rainfall at wetter times of the year, could pay dividends.

Public flower beds etc could be planted with seasonal veg/herbs. There are many small community groups with growing projects and these should be given more support with public funding. This could include giving/leasing Common Good land to them at preferential rates.

More allotment space would be great. We can only grow a few herbs and summer veg in pots due to space. Would love an allotment for growing veg to feed our family.

Thank you for taking part!