

Glasgow Community Food Network Annual Report 2017-18

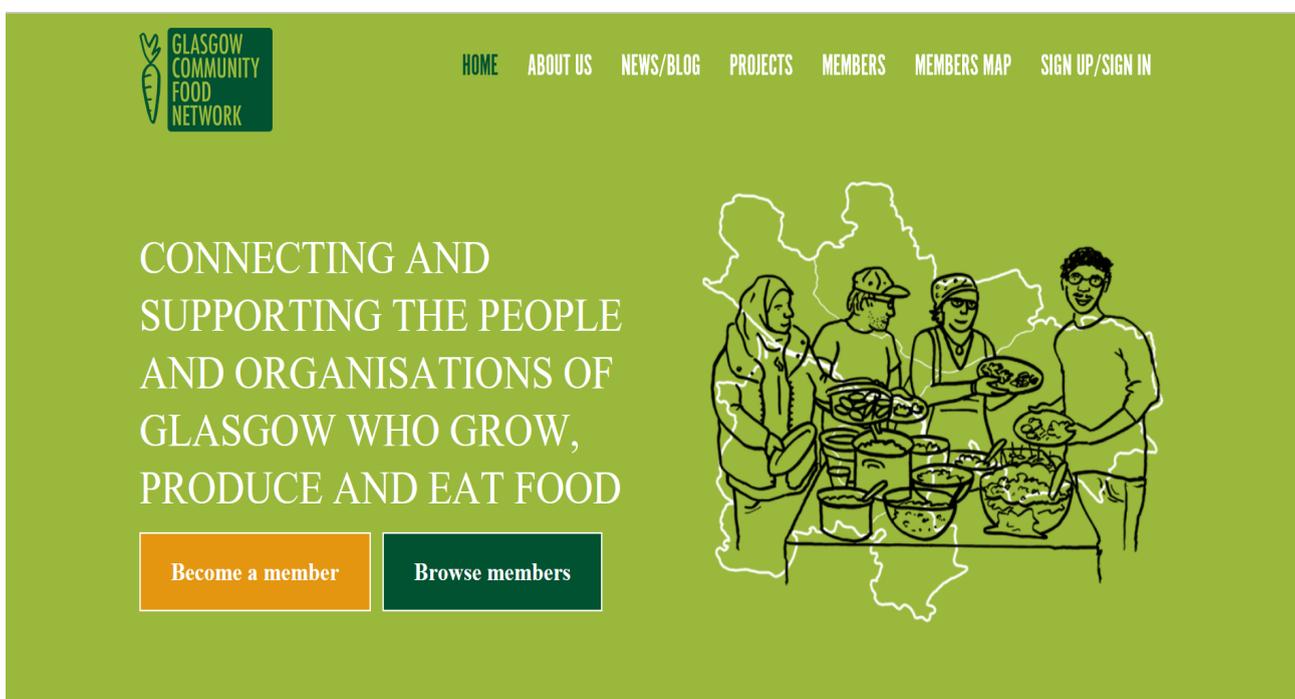
It's been an amazing first year since Glasgow Community Food Network launched in June 2017. A full year of consultation and co-design had gone into it's formation - as directors all of us come from community food backgrounds, and we had volunteered to lead the process to create a new organisation that could represent all sectors of community food in Glasgow - growing, cooking, eating, selling, sharing. We were mindful that this new entity would have a lot to do in order to be useful and meaningful.

This year - working with a very limited budget - I hope we have shown that GCFN can be just that.

1. We have started by creating the infrastructure to become a member - and for GCFN to communicate. Building up the membership is important, because essentially GCFN is a Cooperative/Community Interest Company Hybrid. That means the membership should play a huge part in what GCFN does, and how decisions are made.

So we put a lot of energy into creating the [website](#), where people and organisations can sign up. It's user friendly, and is the beginnings of a database of skills and resources for sharing or trading.

The [website](#) is also a space for members to share their news and blog posts - it is what the members make it so please send us your stuff and any ideas for it's development.



The image shows a screenshot of the Glasgow Community Food Network website homepage. The background is a solid light green color. In the top left corner, there is a logo consisting of a stylized carrot icon and the text "GLASGOW COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK". To the right of the logo is a horizontal navigation menu with the following items: "HOME", "ABOUT US", "NEWS/BLOG", "PROJECTS", "MEMBERS", "MEMBERS MAP", and "SIGN UP/SIGN IN". Below the navigation menu, on the left side, is a large block of white text that reads: "CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS OF GLASGOW WHO GROW, PRODUCE AND EAT FOOD". Below this text are two buttons: an orange button that says "Become a member" and a dark green button that says "Browse members". On the right side of the page, there is a white line-art illustration of four people (two women and two men) standing around a table filled with various food items, including bowls, pots, and plates. The illustration is set against a faint white outline of the map of Scotland.

2. Our second priority was to create opportunities to network. We have thrown time and energy into staging our seasonal networking events. Although these take a bit to organise, we think it's been worth it. Each

event has been themed around different 'types' of community food projects.

After June's launch event, we held the [Roots to Market event](#) in October. This kicked off the now well known research that investigated how we are going to grow Glasgow's local food economy.

The winter event in January was [Fair Food, Dignified Distribution](#). This brought together people from projects and organisations involved in food distribution work, aimed largely at those who use surplus food.

In spring, the April event shone the spotlight on [Community Cafes](#), and explored their needs and how they can support one another.

Which brings us back here, to summer and a celebration of community growing.

Each event has been held at Kinning Park Complex, and has followed the same format - speakers from different projects, amazing food and discussions. The discussions have aimed to draw out what more GCFN can do to support the movement. Reports from each are available, and we'll be using this to guide our work in the future.



3. [Roots to Market](#) was this year's major piece of work, which was a collaboration between GCFN and Propagate. Roots to Market - an epic volume details the aspirations, barriers and opportunities for Glasgow's fledgling Market Gardeners and food businesses looking to buy local produce. The work from this is now moving forward in the guise of [Veg Cities](#).





4. We have also picked up on other pieces of work and inputted into consultations and discussions.

- We represent the Community Sector on the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership - a cross sectoral group working towards Glasgow becoming a Sustainable Food City. GCFN directors sit on the Food Procurement, Food Poverty and Food Waste subgroups.

- We joined in with discussions led by Community Food and Health Scotland to form a Community Cafe network, and we're keeping our fingers crossed for funding to continue to support that.

- We co-organised with the Scottish Government a consultation session for Community Food Retailers to input into the design of the upcoming Better Start Scheme (replacing the Healthy Start Vouchers).

- We submitted a detailed response to the consultation on the [Food Growing Strategy](#), part of the Community Empowerment Act, and we are committed to working with Glasgow City Council on developing this.

- We continue to support members projects such as Urban Roots and Castlemilk Law Centre's partnership work around food banks, welfare and community referrals.

- We've been part of other networks participating and supporting Interfaith Food Justice Network's 'Big Picnic' in George Square. Celebrating Glasgow's diverse food projects!

- We have and continue to learn what support our members need by keeping in touch and helping where we can (example Woodlands Volunteer Development, promoting organisations online and at events).





 Glasgow Community Food Network

Response to the Glasgow City Council Food Growing Strategy

19 AUG 2017 - PUBLIC

Context

In June 2017 Glasgow City Council appointed consultants Here and Now to help inform their new Food Growing Strategy. Developing the strategy is a statutory duty of local councils under the Community Empowerment Act 2015. Three public consultation events were held in June, along with an internet survey.

The year ahead looks equally as exciting. The timing and environment is perfect in Glasgow right now for an innovative food agenda, if all partners and stakeholders can work effectively together.

We have a slightly bigger budget to work with, having been successful with our bid to [Sustainable Food Cities](#) to run the [Veg Cities Campaign](#). Veg Cities is an excellent opportunity to involve food growers, community organisations, schools, cafes and consumers in collective action to Promote Veg.

We're also hopeful for Community Food and Health Scotland Funding for the Community Cafes network.

Glasgow Food Policy Partnership are about to recruit for a Sustainable Food Cities Coordinator, so we'll work with them too.

We plan to continue our seasonal networking events, and build our projects from the feedback we gather.



GLASGOW

If you have any ideas for projects you think GCFN should prioritise please let us know! As members, what you say counts.

Email: hello@glasgowfood.net

www.glasgowfood.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GlasgowCFN/>

Twitter: @GCFNetwork

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