

**Glasgow Community Food Network**  
**Spring Event March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**  
**Community Gardens and Growing**  
**Table Notes (3 groups, combined)**

**What are the main learning points from the last 2 years?**

Pandemic driven desire to grow – funding for project work stopped.

Co-opted spaces reclaimed for non-growing purposes?

Increased interest from general population created a drought of spaces for growers needing experience

Pandemic driven desire to grow – enthusiasm

Pivoting to new ways of engaging and communicating

Pandemic = people outside more and staying local

Understanding how much can be grown in small spaces

Demand and interest has increased & realisation of importance of growing food – shift in attitudes and more interest in food justice since pandemic, greater awareness and community.

More interest in volunteer community gardening and lots of people joining up, using social media to connect groups, people becoming more aware of what's happening locally

Lack of access and waiting lists for allotments has increased people's involvement in community gardening projects

**How can we take this learning forward (and make more good stuff happen)**

Keeping folk engaged when things start to open up – campaigning

Folk engaged for other reasons than growing – mental health, loneliness

Language of 'building skills' to usher folk into preparing for future food shocks

Mapping and signposting - using the ALISS to provide mapping & access for community growing in Glasgow

'Pandemic Archive' to remind us of the things we cared about and put action into during lockdown

To keep interest going:

- Roadshows and stalls, onfo on community gardens etc.. to spread awareness
- Community events with free food
- Training – beginners day, accessible and friendly
- Community funds to get people started gardening
- Online resources – hub will have online mapping and maybe a members forum
- Stories

Community Engagement is most important

- more people engaged and aware = more healthy eating

People want to get involved, need mapping and signposting

Supporting groups so navigate bureaucracy to access land – but also question the process!

Good practice examples: AfricAlba, Growchapel, Toryglen Adopt a Plot

Growing food in parks – utilising public greenspace, veg planting in council beds

Vertical farming, use of empty buildings