

Notes: Open Space Table, GCFN Networking Event 31 March 2022

Group 1

Broad discussion about the positives GCFN can offer or the asks of GCFN as a network.

Events like this one today are very helpful

The opportunity to meet people is important

Post-Covid having an open space table like this one is nice because you don't always know what you're looking for you just want to hear from other orgs

Future opportunities

- Part of this in the future is proving there is an interest – “getting louder as a collective voice” – i.e. the demand for land like GAF discussed, the need for it – this ties in to motivation and communication

Having a common voice and the weight of all members together is important – “we need to do more bigging ourselves up”

Having a network with an overview, a solid overview of what's going on and who's who in the city is good, the potential to bring people together.

- e.g. MEARs commented that knowing about St Paul's is very useful for them

Broader discussion about how to share the info / overview – talked about the hub, “an information hub online would be really good” – discussion of the ALISS system and how MEARs service users would access information there.

Talked about the idea of wellbeing in food and connection through food

Group 2

Focused on the topic of communication.

Highlighted a GCVS offer -

- Large database of groups across the city that could be shared or communicated with
- Lots of newsletters
- Greater Glasgow Climate Hub highlighted as a space the FCA team should be interacting with or using
- GlasgowHelps.Org was also mentioned as a good website to use
- There was a discussion between Brenda (GCFN board) and Bob (GCVS) about sharing with Bob the information that is currently on the Urban Roots Free Food Map.

Talked about communication and accessibility. Mental and physical accessibility, learning disabilities, under-represented groups. How to engage with these audiences? Smaller discussion about engaging with people through art and mention of the Dandelion project.

Importance of communication being empowering rather than 'help' and the power dynamics between people and organisations.

Discussion about the intersectional nature of the issues we are all working to address.

Discussion about Edinburgh Community Food carers project funded by the City of Edinburgh Council. Group discussed the idea of how to structure a society that benefits your youngest and oldest – book ending your city / community / population

Group 3

Group responded to some of the written points from the previous groups – there was talk of Volunteer Glasgow and the opportunities to advertise volunteering spaces on their site. Updated that they will be doing some communication on Earth Day. Discussed how to tap into the energy of good volunteers and share this wider, how to support people to be champions in their local community.

Ear Hustle the podcast was recommended – linked to a discussion about a new market garden South Lanarkshire council are opening. It will be a closed unit worked on by people doing community service. Some talk about how to merge two communities of the service users working on the site and the local community so that it is integrated and local community can get the benefits / produce.

Bigger discussion about how could GCFN help with the strong risk averse culture in funders and councils. How could GCFN support unconstituted groups to receive funding? Is that even something we could do? Talked about National Lottery in relation to this. Discussed how TCV have a support site for helping groups to become constituted.

Suggestion that a future event could be a 'market place' with different stalls from different orgs or market gardens etc