

Community Food Working Group discussion, 22nd November 2024
Kinning Park Complex

Participants (sorry – didn't get everyone's full names)

Judy Wilkinson (GAF)
Mary Redmond (Propagate)
Fiona (Community Grower)
Fiona (Cranhill Development Trust)
Anhigsia (Food Growing Team, GCC)
Satya (Healing Parts Consultant – freelance)
Chris Kane (facilitator)
Jill Muirie (scribe)

Purpose

The purpose of the discussion was to consider the priorities proposed for the community food working group and discuss whether they remain relevant, then to develop SMART aims for the working group for the next 2 years or so.

Priority action 1: Food Resource Hub

This is currently hosted on the GCFN website. It was felt that many people don't know it is there. And is it what people need? Can it be made more relevant?

Publicise it better – e.g. via Health Improvement teams and encourage them to add to it (it is hosted on ALISS so people can add to the database themselves).

Mail out to people (e.g. community councils and housing association) to share it, and encourage them to add their services to the hub. Also faith communities – connect with Interfaith Food Justice Network (Chris to connect with Thalia Groucott)

Could it be developed into a platform to share resources – perhaps on a sector basis (NE, NW, S)? or more local hubs?

Integration networks - partner with them on this

Information needs to be kept up to date so that people don't make unnecessary journeys – how to quality assure the content?

Connect with organisations that offer capacity building for people e.g. Next Door app

Hold a networking event like this – or several across the city – share what you can offer or what you need – to organically meet and grow. A similar event was held recently for local growers in the NE and was very helpful. Also, for example, the community breakfasts in Springburn held by NG homes.

Need to find the anchor organisations in each area - connect up locally

e.g. women's integration networks, Springburn integration network, CWIN – to host it locally.

People like Satya (nutritionist) (people who look like her) are not well represented. Engage and encourage food organisations and practitioners who want to work with community food organisations.

There was a project a few years ago across Glasgow that shared recipes from different cultures – sharing information is useful (Judy)

The Big Picnic was one way this was done previously (funding may be available from the Incorporation of Gardeners)

Partnership should involve freelancers – need to think about how to do this.

Newsagents are an interesting part of local high streets – how can they play a role in food and food waste. Could there be a space for providing local food or community fridges etc

Priority action 3: Increasing community participation

Could markets supply to local newsagents – e.g. veg boxes sources from community fruit and veg markets? A potential link could be made with newsagents? Meeting people where they are. Connecting more with local convenience outlets.

Facilitating smaller events -in different regions. Sharing resources and connections. Anchored in a way around local food.

Roots in Ruchill (private allotments) [- *not sure why this was mentioned*]

Glasgow NW has a new growers groups. Could cohost events with HSCP Health Improvement?

Community Alliance Scotland could help – they support/fund learning exchanges. Get Growing Scotland could also help?

Grounding activity – community meal(local community chef and highlighting a cuisine that has been brought to Glasgow) – matching up what people need and what they want

What is resilience – music, stories, art. Bringing in the story element in to help understand people and their journey. Resilience – access to food. Human Right to food .

If we go back to the Nourish Atlas- different countries and what they have achieved

Campaigning element to this group? Join with Nourish Scotland.

A body to represent community food – a union?!!

Food security is so important – growing locally is vital.

Is a component to work with people who are in decision making positions – getting them to events and sharing the difference it makes.

Community food growing hasn't been recognised because it “ won't make much of a difference”. If we get land and market gardens and community growing - this s the difference it would make for food and health. Where are the numbers regarding what is being done and what could be done.

Need to have multiple version of the same narrative for different audiences

Mary Redmond – potentially relaunch the Demand for Land campaign next summer?

Could GCFN or community food working group act as a voice of the community food sector?

Suggestion that we look at individual growing (allotments) and bigger systems.

Practical activities are good to support - events, celebrations

Could we have a team of folks to have eye out for consultation of places to raise the profile of the work.

How to share developments – in meantime look at GCFN communication challenges.

Have a meeting date in 3 months to discuss planning.

Monthly drop in session – to update, provide news of developments etc.

GCFN to act as an anchor

Community food working group to meet again on 17th Jan (Friday) 11-12.30am in person (the Collective)

My summary of the discussion:

The Community Food Group discussion was pretty positive. Most of the participants were new to the food plan, so there were a number of suggestions that had already been taken forward as well as some good new proposals. My summary of the short terms actions that came out of the discussion are below:

1. Online food hub: Make the online food hub more relevant, accurate and wide ranging – perhaps link it better to Health Improvement team work so that it reflects the community food organisations and services that they know and work with. Also mail out to Housing Associations and faith communities to ask them to list their services and to use it with their clients. Although expand it to be a platform for sharing resources (perhaps by NE, NW, and S Glasgow). Partner more with the integration networks as part of this development. Link it with face to face networking events across the city to bring local organisations together to share what they are working on and facilitate more joint working (link with anchor organisations in each area). There could be ‘grounding activities’, food provision and matching up what participants need and what they want.
2. Can the community food working group link more with newsagents/local convenience stores to encourage them to provide more healthy food/fruit and veg (perhaps through links with Community markets)? ‘Be more active where people are’. (note that this would like to the food economy theme)
3. CFWG to advocate better for community growing – working with people in decision making positions. For too long community food growing hasn’t been recognised as it ‘won’t make much of a difference’. But if we get land, and market gardens and community growing all supported there would be a difference for food and health. Have multiple versions of the same narrative for different audiences. Need to get number regarding what is being done compared to what could be done. Have tours, visits etc. Take decision makers to see the work that is being done.
4. Potentially relaunch the demand for land campaign - with GCFN acting as the voice of the community food sector.
5. Also CF WG could be a conduit for consultation responses and raising the profile of community food. Also supporting improved communication between community food organisations – perhaps some sort of communications channel.