

# Urban Agriculture Working Group

## Meeting Notes

14:00-16:00 21/02/2025, Glasgow Collective, 15 Campbell St.

*Attendees*<sup>1</sup> Kristina Nitsolova (GCC Food Growing), Reuben Chesters & Doro Warlich (Locavore), Seonad Hoy (Green Councillor, Hillhead Ward), David Lyon (GCC Economic Development), Sasha Robertson (St Paul's Youth Forum), Hendrik Mans (Glasgow Mushroom Company), Jill Muirie (GCPH), Jamie Corletto (GCC – NRS Planning), Kyle Baldock (GCFN), Mark Fitzpatrick (GCFN)

*Apologies* N/A

*Chair* Kyle Baldock (Glasgow Community Food Network)

*Minutes* Kyle Baldock

## Agenda

1. Introductions – 1 min each 10 min
2. Evidence Gathering Review – 30 min
  - a. [Read the summary here](#)
  - b. Call for new meeting in May
  - c. What has happened in the interim?
  - d. Nominate projects that should feed in
3. Strengthen links between Food Plan and Food Growing Strategy 10-15min
  - a. Revive Glasgow Growers' Forum in a new form?
  - b. Re institute monitoring of Food Strategy – is this happening?
4. Land Needs Survey- Kyle to give overview 5 min
  - a. Next steps
  - b. Asks
5. Group Questions and Recommendations 20-30 min
  - a. Update on report due for Food Growing Strategy this year
  - b. Update on VDLF?
  - c. David Lyon- capacity building
6. Next Meeting

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<sup>1</sup> The names in this document include those who responded to the invitation to attend the Urban Agriculture working group. For full list of invitees, please contact Project Coordinator for FCA at GCFN, currently ebany.dohle@glasgowfood.net

## 1. Welcome and apologies

Welcome to Jamie Corletto who is Alan Duff's replacement in NRS – Planning.

## 2. Note of last meeting and matters arising

*Last meeting note was agreed as accurate.*

The group discussed the following matters arising, which feed into all four of the Working Group's stated aims:

**Evidence Gathering in 2024 unsuccessful.** Idea to call for a new meeting in 2025. Is there support for this idea?

- DW: who is this for? Requires time and resources.
- KB: Urban AG Coordinator will collect evidence and present it to the council, not ask for growers to attend.
- RC: Shows a state of play in Glasgow: what's been attempted, what's not working.
  - A lot has happened since last year when the meeting happened. Gather new evidence and reflect success stories.
  - Is it worth doing? Worthwhile only if there is enough attendance from officers.
- DW: Make the evidence gathering publicly available on GCFN website?
- RC: Working Group has done a lot of work to engage the sector, we need to have decision makers in the room
  - Working Group should not just focus on the council
  - Locavore has been through the mill
  - We need to progress the work as fast as possible
  - How can we achieve these objectives without an over reliance/ engaging the council
- HM: keen to contribute to evidence gathering
- **AP: Kyle to write brief, send email, collect & compile evidence, work with Food Growing Team to set a new meeting.**
- **AP: Kyle to write to Elaine McSparran to gain support for the meeting**

**Strengthening links between Food Plan and Food Growing Strategy.** A lack of monitoring of Food Growing Strategy.

- Idea to revive the Glasgow Growers' Forum in a new form
- GGF not met in over a year

- No monitoring/oversight of Food Growing Strategy by the food growing sector
- KN: important to do, council has mandate to engage with food growing community to increase the success rate of the sector
  - Also mandate to engage internally within the Council to improve processes
  - Helps other departments facilitate food growing
- Food Growing feeds into the Strategic Development Plan, and links with the Open Space Strategy, Climate Plan
- Reviving the GGF in some form who will improve communication, engagement
- DW: Is there any monitoring happening?
- KN: Monitoring is currently done yearly via a report to the Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods Committee. Links are available on the City Food Plan Website.
- RC: Food Growing Strategy is not a strategy by definition
  - **What processes has the Food Growing Strategy improved?**
- Needs full review and to become a strategy with KPIs and timelines
- KB: Growers Forum could push for this and help shape a new strategy
- Idea agreed in principle. **AP: Kyle to write brief and start process of reviving group**

### 3. City Region Engagement

- JM: what about the City Region Team?
  - KN: Worth trying to make links
  - DL: Economic Dev has been trying, food Growing tends to fall off the edge, capital intensive projects are prioritised
- RC: Region is critical as there really isn't enough room in the city.
- **AP: DL to continue engaging with the City Region Team**

### KB: Ruchill update

- Business planning paused- Looking at Community Development Trust to make the project fully community-owned
- Phase one costs to get project to minimum-viable standard for growing ~£400K

### KB: Update on Land Needs Survey

- KN: How can we use the land needs? Link in with NRS Planning
- JC: Majority of this responsibility lies with Alan Duff
- KN: Development Plan process – Engage with the City Development Plan process by nominating sites that may be safeguarded for food growing. There was a public engagement stage (closed in 2024). Currently an internal call for sites

within the council. Will endeavour to add sites that may meet the requirements from the Land Needs Survey.

- RC: Need a new Let's Grow Together Map, with less sites, but realistic sites – aka pre-vetted by council, low risk of contamination, quick turnaround. Idea of 'zoning for food growing' Even if we could get 5-10 sites that are realistic. **AP: KB & KN to work on refining the Let's Grow Together Map.**
- JM: Has council approached University to help with soil testing? **AP: JM to ask GALLANT and Uni about offering soil sampling services**
- DW: Would help if the council identified the land, worked out model lease, rather than putting all the burden on growers.

### **Vacant and Derelict Land Fund**

- DW: Turnaround is too tight
- KN: Perennial fund, comes around every year, match growers and project to land, especially if council owned, and then council can give permission to be on site and support the application.
- **AP: Kyle and Kristina to match growers/projects with VDL for 2026 fund**

### **Bellahouston update**

- SH: Main reason to speak to Elaine McSporran **AP: Kyle to email**
- RC: Some site users are still there
  - 4 orgs
  - 16 raised bed holders
  - No running water, codes on the gates changed
- RC: GCFN a natural org to come on, a good solution, to hold the lease, provide the facilities to growers. If not GCFN, who?
  - Renting more of the site to the hospice, who aren't interested.
  - SH: Urban Roots?
- RC: Locavore put an EOI into PMGC so there is an official record of community interest in preserving the site for food growing.

### **Food Growing Strategy Report update**

KN: Unsure when it is going to committee

- Current Strategy 2020-25. A review is due every five years according to the Community Empowerment Act
- Waiting on guidance
- **AP: Cllr Hoy to enquire about report and Strategy review**

### **Next meeting:**

Each quarter, every third Friday of the middle month:

- Friday, 16 May, 2025, 14:00-16:00, Glasgow Collective
- Friday, 15 August, 2025, 14:00-16:00, Location TBC
- Friday, 21 November, 2025, 14:00-16:00, Location TBC
- Friday, 20 February, 2026, 14:00-16:00, Location TBC

Minutes

| <b>Item</b>                                   | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Initials</b> |
|---|--|-----------------|
| Evidence Gathering Pt 2                       | Write brief, send email, collect & compile evidence, work with Food Growing Team to set a new meeting. | KB              |
| Growers Forum                                 | Write brief and revive group   | KB              |
| City Region Team                              | Continue engaging and promoting food growing   | DL              |
| More realistic mapping for food growing sites | Zoning for food, 5-10 sites that are low risk with pilot projects?                                     | KB/KN?          |
| Soil testing to make site turnaround quicker  | Ask University and GALLANT if this service can be offered and how it would work                        | JM              |
| Vacant and Derelict Land Fund                 | Prepare for 2026 edition by matching growers/projects with sites                                       | KB/KN           |
| Bellahouston                                  | Clarity on future<br>Preserve as food growing site   | KB/SH           |
| Food Growing Strategy Review Update           | Clarity on when the 5-year review will happen  | SH              |
| Minute taker                                  | Get one  | KB              |
| <b>Focus for next quarter</b>                 | Clarity on Bellahouston<br>Better mapping of sites   |                 |

|                     |   |                 |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|
|                     | Share evidence gathering more widely<br>Meet with Council officers in May<br>Reestablish Growers Forum<br>Reach decision makers |                 |
| <b>Next Meeting</b> | Friday, 16 May, 2025, 14:00-16:00,<br>Glasgow Collective  | KB to book room |

## Appendix

VDL Fund 2025-26