



Aden Country Park Allotment & Community Gardens Project

July 20th
2012

[Report to establish whether the local Buchan community would like to see the development of allotments and community gardens in the grounds of Aden Country Park.]

Buchan Development Partnership
Neil Shirran – Project Development Worker

**Investing
in Ideas
Report**

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1. Executive Summary

The Aden Country Park Allotment & Community Garden report has been produced as part of “Investing in Ideas” Big Lottery Funding. Buchan Development Partnership (BDP) are working with the local authority, Aberdeenshire Council, to establish whether the local Buchan community would like to see the development of allotments and community gardens in the grounds of Aden Country Park, in Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire.

The main points covered in this report include:

1. Community Consultation

The community consultation carried out to help identify and establish the interest, suitability, and demand of the development of Allotments & Community Gardens in the grounds of Aden Country Park

2. Questionnaire Analysis

Analysis of the online and offline questionnaire covering: interest in the Aden Country Park Allotment & Community Garden idea; reasons for wanting an allotment or community garden; respondent demographics; and interest in being involved to develop the idea.

3. The Proposed Site

Information, map, and sketch of the proposed Aden Country Park allotments and community gardens plot.

4. Governance & Management

Reviewing governance and management issues, including: available options; devolved management; Aden Community Allotment Association (ACAA); lease arrangements; equal opportunities; tenancy agreement; tenant restrictions; insurance, rents & funding; and the Stonehaven Allotment Association model.

5. Planning & Land Implications

Planning and land implications are considered including: planning permission, and soil suitability.

6. Action Plan & Development Costs

A basic action plan establishes the way forward, in conjunction with a list of estimated development costs required to progress the Aden Allotments & Community Gardens concept.

7. Funding Opportunities/Income Streams

Lastly, potential funding opportunities and income streams are identified.

2. Introduction

As part of an “Investing in Ideas” Big Lottery Funded project Buchan Development Partnership are working with the local authority, Aberdeenshire Council, to establish whether the local Buchan community would like to see the development of allotments and community gardens in the grounds of Aden Country Park, in Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire.

A Project Development Worker, Neil Shirran, was employed to research, co-ordinate, and consult with the local community to help identify interest, feasibility and the viability of the idea. The Development Worker followed the six key aims outlined in the grant application, these were to:

- 1) Consult with the local community to establish and confirm the interest in the allotment and community gardens idea by carrying out surveys, questionnaire, events & meetings.
- 2) Collate and analyse the results of the community consultation and feedback to the community.
- 3) Explore possible governance and management structures/guidelines which need to be developed to deal with tenancy rules and agreements.
- 4) Carry out research into planning and land implications i.e. soil suitability and a change of use from park/farm land to allotments and community gardens.
- 5) Research and develop a feasibility study/action plan (including any cost implications) to ensure that access to the allotment site is safe and not a barrier to people with disabilities. In addition research into what facilities the site should offer for plot holders to obtain the full benefits of allotment gardening, including a water supply, toilet, boundary fences, hedges, paths and gates.
- 6) Identify possible income streams and future funding opportunities.

In conclusion, it is hoped that the project will identify interest, feasibility and the viability of the idea and as a result will enable the Aden Allotment and Community Garden Initiative to use the findings of this project to bring the concept into fruition.

3. Community Consultation

A key aspect of the Aden Country Park Allotments & Community Gardens project is to encourage and consult with the local Buchan community. The main aims are to:

- identify and establish the interest, suitability, and demand of the Allotments & Community Gardens idea in Aden Country Park
- the local community to become partners in the decision making process
- demonstrate that there is a need for Allotments & Community Gardens
- gather opinions as to how the Aden Country Park Allotments & Community Gardens should be developed

To achieve this, the Development Worker developed an online questionnaire, (using Survey Monkey), and an offline paper based questionnaire which was distributed locally. In addition the Development Work sent out various press releases using the local newspapers (Press & Journal, Buchan Observer, and the Advertiser Series) as well attending local forums, and adding information to prominent local websites (Aberdeenshire Council, Aden Country Park, Community Planning Partnership, and the Buchan Development Partnership) to inform local people about both the project and the potential to be involved through the questionnaire.

The Development Worker also contacted the local primary and secondary schools, Willowbank (a local organisation who supports people with learning disabilities from Peterhead, Mintlaw and the surrounding area) and the Aberdeenshire Council Officer responsible for the provision of allotments across Aberdeenshire, specifically the local Buchan area. All individuals on waiting lists were contacted and informed of the project and the possibility of engaging with the project by answering the questionnaire.

Once sufficient interest was generated through the questionnaire the Development Worker analysed the data collected and organised a series of public meetings for both the Development Worker and the Landscape Services section of Aberdeenshire Council to meet with all interested individuals and groups. After an open discussion, a site was identified by Landscape Services within the grounds of Aden Country Park

At the next public meeting the Development Worker went through the results of the Aden Country Park Allotment & Community Garden questionnaire, followed by a walk and talk to the identified plot of ground. It is fair to say the group were excited seeing the plot of land and keen to form a small working group of 8 people to work alongside the Project Development Worker to push the idea forward.



4. Questionnaire Analysis

As part of the community consultation carried out by the Development Worker, a paper based and online (Survey Monkey) questionnaire was made available at various locations, events, forums, and websites. In total 32 people/groups, predominantly from the local Buchan area completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire was split up into four main topics, these were:

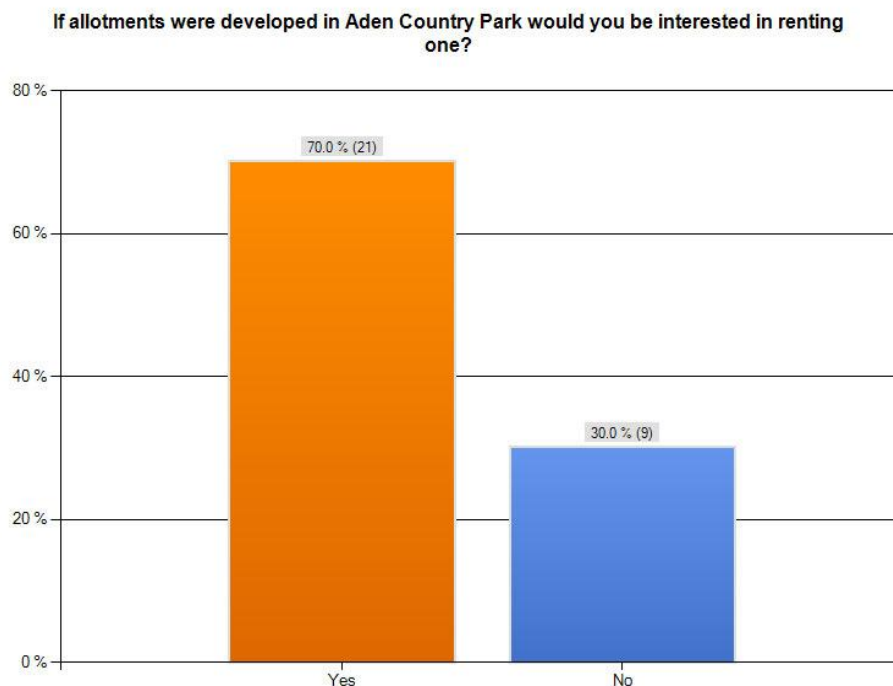
1. **Interest** – whether there was sufficient interest in the idea
2. **Background Information** – reason for wanting an allotment or community garden, how they would use it, size of plot required, and facilities required
3. **About You** – demographics about respondents
4. **Future Developments** – ascertaining who would be willing to be involved in the forthcoming project developments

The results of the questionnaire are as follows:

4.1. Interest

Q1. If allotments were developed in Aden Country Park would you be interested in renting one?

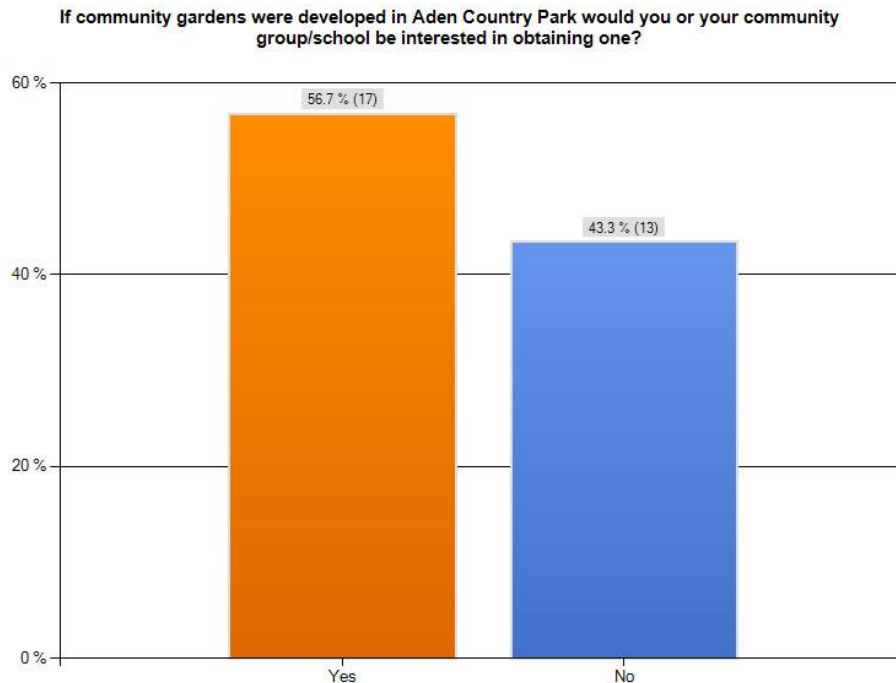
To establish whether respondents were either interested in the development of allotments or community gardens it was decided to split this question into two parts.



The majority of respondents (70% - 21) said that “Yes” they would be interested in renting an allotment if they were developed in Aden Country Park, with far fewer (30% - 9) respondents saying “No” they were not interested.

Q2. If community gardens were developed in Aden Country Park would you or your community group/school be interested in obtaining one?

The respondents were then asked if community gardens were developed in Aden Country Park would they be interested in obtaining one/be involved with one.



Although there is more of an even split, the majority of respondents (56.7% - 17) said “Yes” that they would be interested in being involved if a community garden was developed in Aden Country Park.

Results show that there are a range of different individuals and groups who are keen to engage with this development, including the local Mintlaw Academy and Primary Schools (Pitfour & Mintlaw), a local scouts group, and Willowbank, a local organisation who supports people with learning disabilities from Peterhead, Mintlaw and the surrounding area.

4.2. Background Information

Q3. What is your reason for wanting an allotment or community garden?

The respondents had a variety of different reasons for wanting an allotment or being involved in a community garden, including:

- “I rent accommodation where there is no land for a vegetable and flower patch”.
- “Interest in growing fruit & vegetables in a more social environment, where skills and ideas and produce could be shared”
- “Our own house does not have a garden large enough to grow vegetables.”
- “We would like to use gardening as a teaching medium for disengaged pupils. Developing personal, social, numeracy skills & citizenship”

- *“To grow fruit & veg. I have an allotment at Peterhead at the moment but it would be good if there were allotments nearer home (Mintlaw)”*
- *“Would love to grow our own veg and our garden is not big enough”*
- *“To increase the opportunities for service users”*
- *“To grow veg on a larger scale than is possible in our garden”*
- *“I love growing veg with my children. I’ve had my name on a waiting list for years”*
- *“Social interaction; keeping active; and home grown food.”*
- *“To allow us as a family to grow healthy food and to encourage our children to get involved with producing good quality food straight from the garden. Food that has not been mass produced and full of chemicals and has been sitting in shops for some time. And to mix with like-minded folks in doing so”*

It is clear to see from the sample shown that lack of space, location, and access to land locally to grow predominantly fruit and vegetables was common. In addition social, educational, and health and wellbeing aspects were all raised as reasons for wanting the development of allotments and community gardens in Aden Country Park.

Q4. How would you use an allotment or community garden?

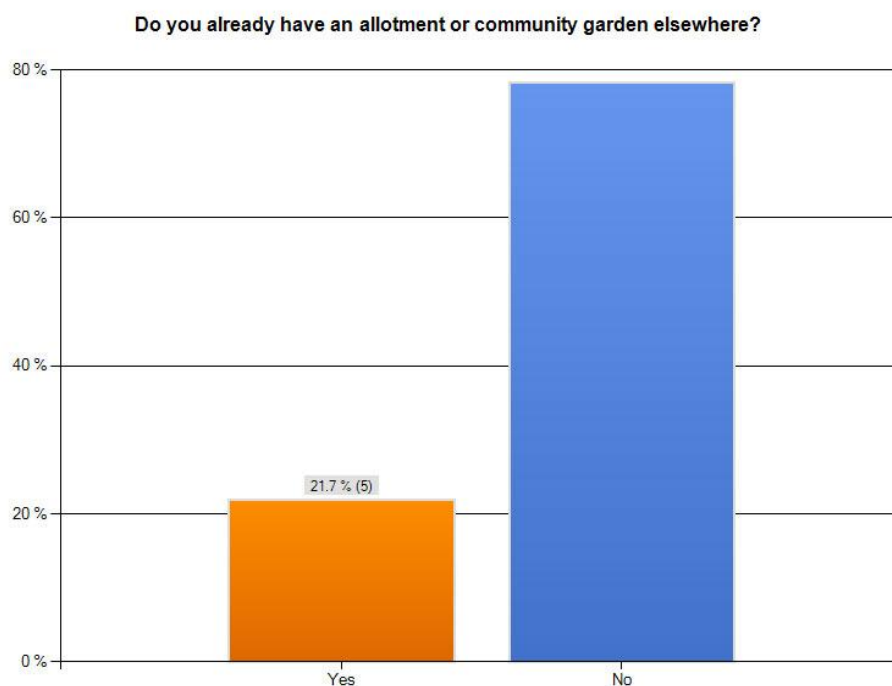
The respondents were then asked how they would use an allotment or community garden should they get one.

- *“To grow more of our own vegetables and to teach our children how to grow them whilst having family fun”*
- *“To grow fruit & veg”*
- *“I would aim to have a greenhouse for starting seeds, cold frames for hardening them and a few vegetable patches for growing potatoes, greens, peas, root veg and summer fruits”.*
- *“We would grow vegetables and other garden produce for selling, cooking and eating. This would all form part of a class activity and count towards qualifications”*
- *“To be able to grow veg, fruit, flowers etc. Also to get outside in a nice park”*
- *“Would use the allotment for mainly growing vegetables”*
- *“I am part of a local scouts group and would be keen to work on a community garden with the youngsters, educating them in the benefits of growing and producing good quality food stuffs”*
- *“I would probably have several raised beds that could be alternated around every year, some permanent fruiting trees and bushes, so that they could be fruit caged”*
- *“I would use it to grow veg. I also work with the school and they would love to have a part in it as well”*

The majority of respondents identified that they would predominantly want to grow a mixture of fruit and vegetables.

Q5. Do you already have an allotment or community garden elsewhere?

The respondents were then asked if they already had or were involved with an allotment or community garden elsewhere.



The majority of respondents (78.3% - 19) said “No”, with the minority (21.7% - 5) respondents saying “Yes” they did already have or were involved with an allotment or community garden elsewhere. Of the respondents that said “Yes” the nearest allotment site was in Peterhead, 9 miles away. It was stated by at least one respondent that:

- *“I have an allotment at Peterhead at the moment but it would be good if there were allotments nearer home (Mintlaw)”.*

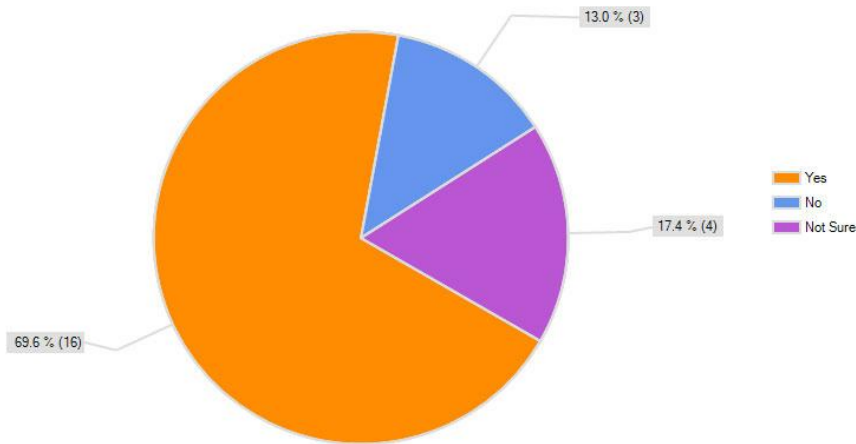
Other involvement in allotments and community gardens included:

- *“There is a small courtyard garden in school used as a classroom for pupils with moderate learning difficulties”.*

Q6. The standard size for an allotment is 10 poles, which is approx. 25m x 6m (28 x 7 yds). Is this the kind of size of allotment you would want?

The standard size for an allotment is 10 poles, which is approx. 25m x 6m (28 x 7 yds). The respondents were asked if this was the kind of size of allotment you they would want/require.

The standard size for an allotment is 10 poles, which is approx. 25m x 6m (28 x 7 yds). Is this the kind of size of allotment you would want?

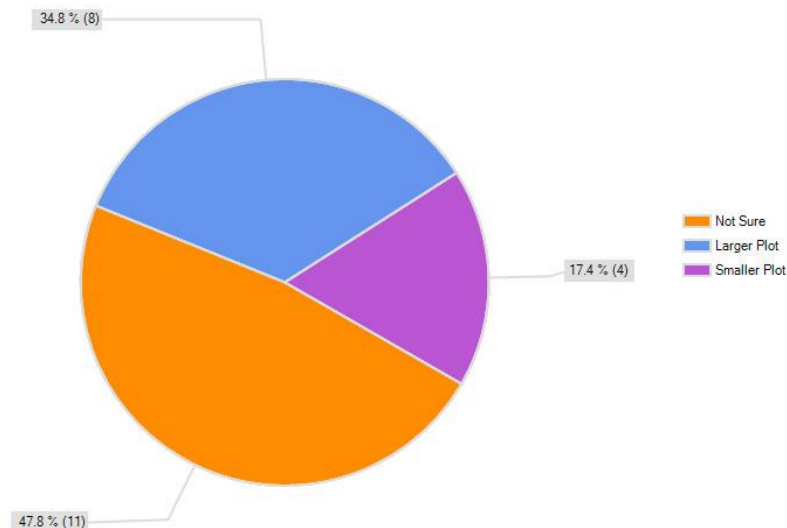


The majority of respondents (69.9% - 16) said “Yes” 25m x 6m was the kind of size of allotment they would want/require, 13% (3) of people said “No”, and 17.4% (4) said they were “Not Sure” if this was the size of allotment they would want/require.

Q7. If there was an option of a different size of plot would you be interested in either a smaller or larger plot?

Respondents were then asked if they would prefer a smaller or larger plot.

If there was an option of a different size of plot would you be interested in either a smaller or larger plot?

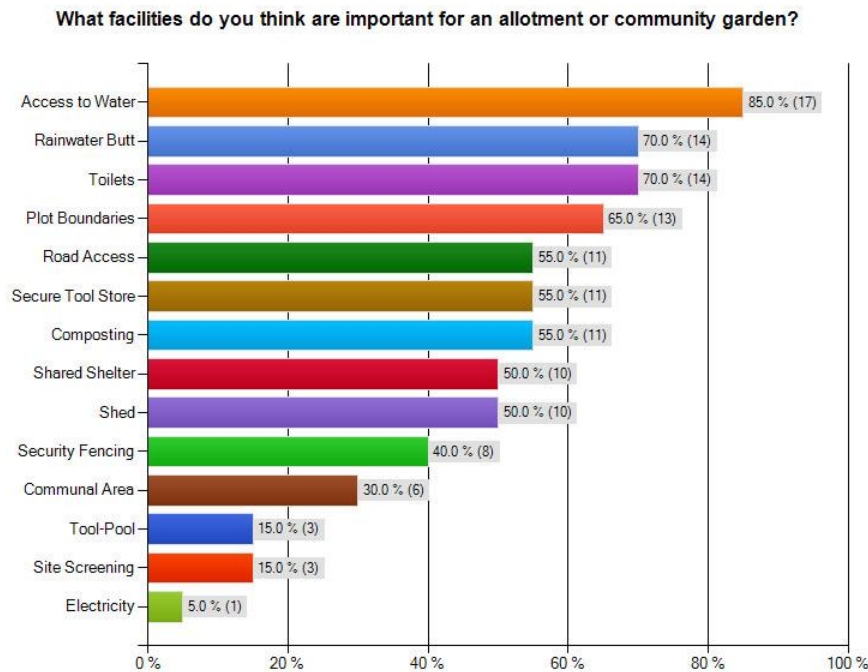


The majority of respondents (47.8% - 11) said they were “Not Sure”, whereas 34.8% (8) of people said they would prefer a “Larger Plot”, and 17.4% (4) said they would prefer a

“Smaller Plot”. This information was crucial when drawing up a map of how the identified plot would be spilt. On the results of this question it was decided to increase the size of a single plot to 25m x 8m, and to supply the option of smaller “half plots” measuring 12.5m x 8m.

Q8. What facilities do you think are important for an allotment or community garden?

The respondents were then asked what facilities they felt were need at the site.



Respondents identified that the most important facilities were: Access to Water (85% - 17), Rainwater Butt (70% - 14), Toilets (70% - 14), Plot Boundaries (65% - 13), Road Access (55% - 11), Secure Tool Store (55% - 11), Composting (55% - 11), Shared Shelter (50% - 10), Shed (50% - 10), Security Fencing (40% - 8), and Communal Area (30% - 6). Facilities the respondents identified as less important are a Tool-Pool (15% - 3), Site Screening (15% - 3), and Access to Electricity (5% - 1).

Other respondent comments included:

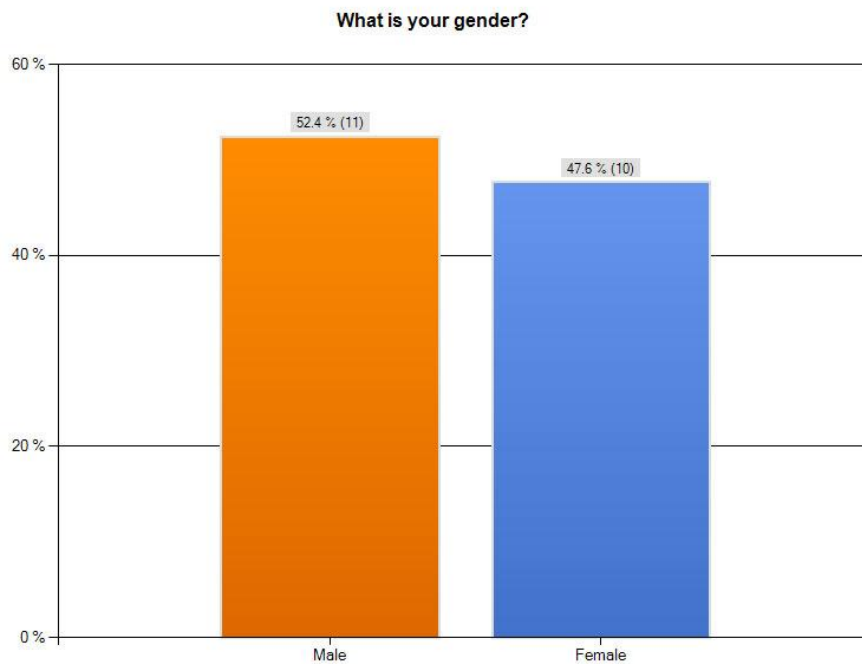
- “Chairs so you can have talk to others”
- “I would consider shelters, water butts, tool stores/sheds, fencing, composting and screening to be optional and supplied/maintained by the allotment holder, not the Council. Also greenhouses, cold frames and paving should be allowed and optional”.
- “Is security fencing needed?”

The information supplied in this question was crucial to help establish what facilities were not only needed but also what needed to be budgeted for.

4.3. About You

Q9. What is your gender?

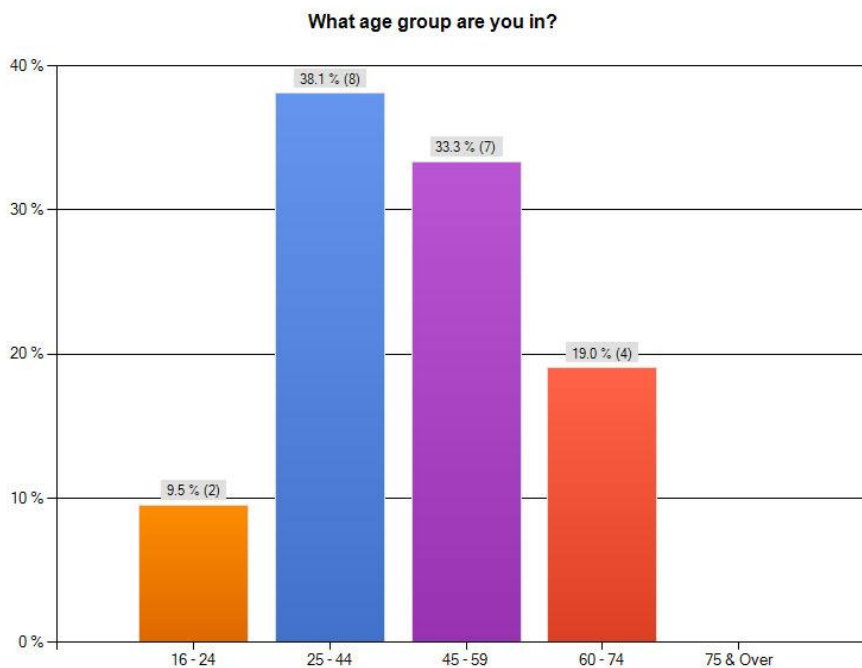
To identify if there were trends regarding the demographics of the people interested in allotments or community gardens the respondents were asked what their gender was.



Interestingly, there was a fairly even split between “Male” (52.4% - 11) and “Female” (47.6 - 10) respondents.

Q10. What age group are you in?

Respondents were then asked what age group they were in.



There was a fairly even split between the age groups. The most popular ages were 25 – 44 with 38.1% (8), and 45 – 59 with 33.3% (7). Less popular age groups included 60 – 74 with 19% (4), 16 – 24 with 9.5% (2), and none in the 75 & Over bracket.

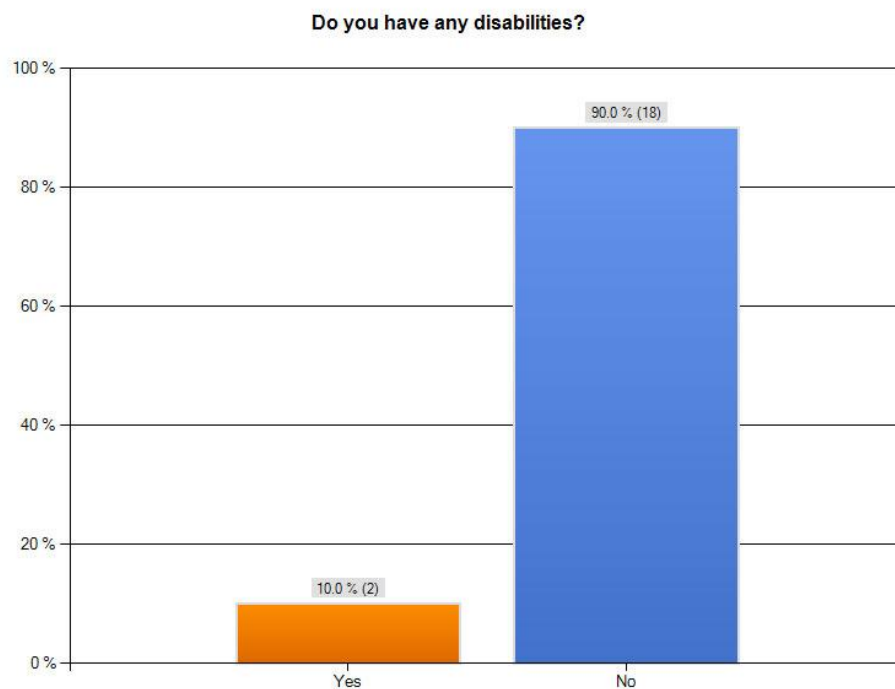
Q11. What ethnic origin do you belong to? (e.g. White, Black, Asian, Mixed etc)

The respondents were then asked what ethnic origin they belonged to.

The majority of respondents stated that they were “White” with the exception of only one respondent who answered on behalf of a large school group, stating “Mix of school children - mainly white”.

Q12. Do you have any disabilities?

The respondents were then asked if they had any disabilities and if so what they were.

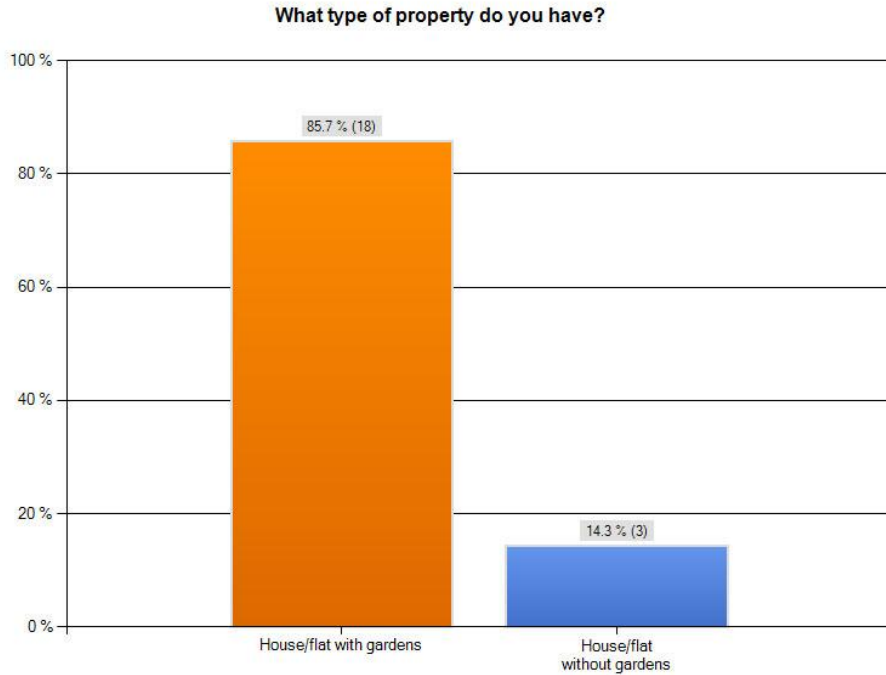


The majority of respondents (90% - 18) said “No” they did not have any disabilities, with only 10% (2) respondents saying “Yes” they did. Comments from the “Yes” respondents included:

- *“rather not say”*
- *“Service users from Willowbank do have a learning disability and some physical disabilities”.*

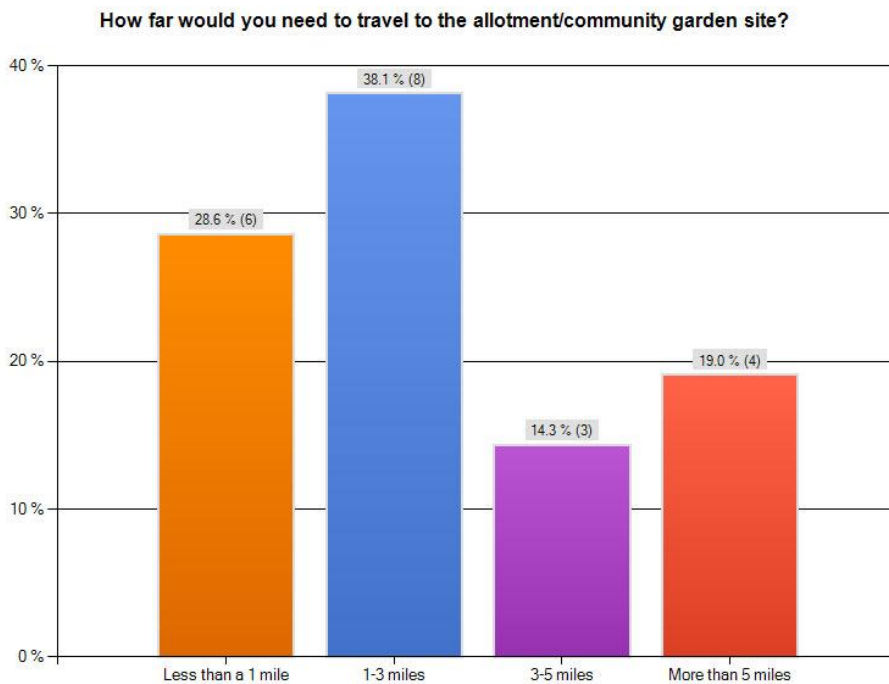
Q13. What type of property do you have?

The next question asked was to help establish what type of properties the respondents lived in.



The majority of respondents (85.7% - 18) stated that they lived in a “House/flat with gardens”, with only 14.3% (3) respondents saying they lived in a “House/flat without gardens”.

Q14. How far would you need to travel to the allotment/community garden site?
 Respondents were then asked how far they would need to travel to the site.



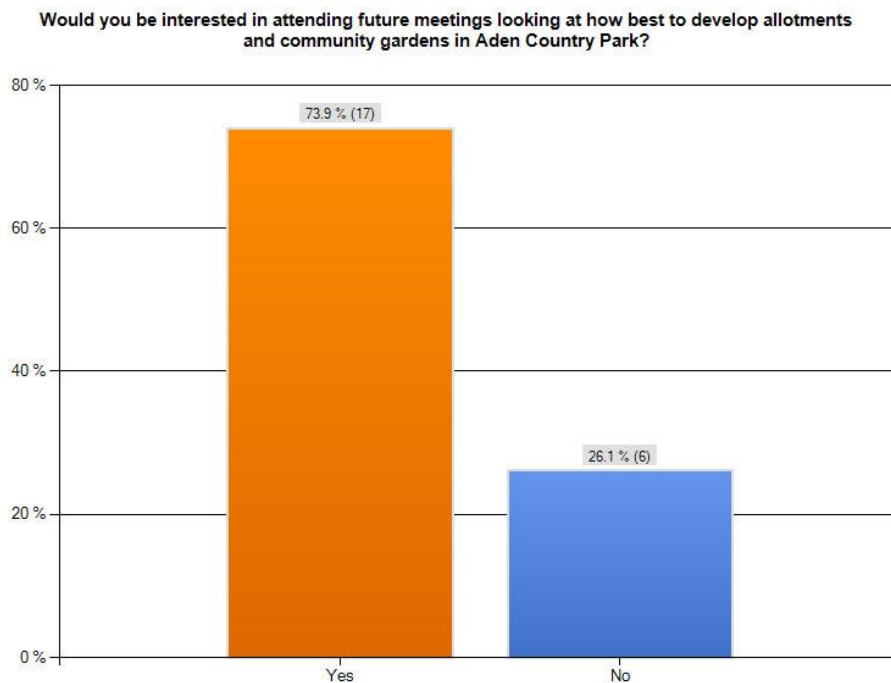
The majority of respondents (38.1% - 8) stated that they would only need to travel “1-3 miles” to the allotment/community garden site, 28.6% (6) said they had “Less than 1 mile” to travel, 19% (4) said they had “More than 5 miles” to travel, and 14.3% (3) said they had 3-5 miles to travel to the allotment/community garden site.

Furthermore when asked what town/village they stayed, a large amount of respondents were from Mintlaw and the surrounding area i.e. New Deer, Longside, Old Deer, Stuartfield, and Maud. Some respondents were from Peterhead, along with one respondent from Ellon and one respondent from Aberdeen.

4.4. Future Developments

Q15. Would you be interested in attending future meetings looking at how best to develop allotments and community gardens in Aden Country Park?

Respondents were then asked if they would be interested in attending future meetings.



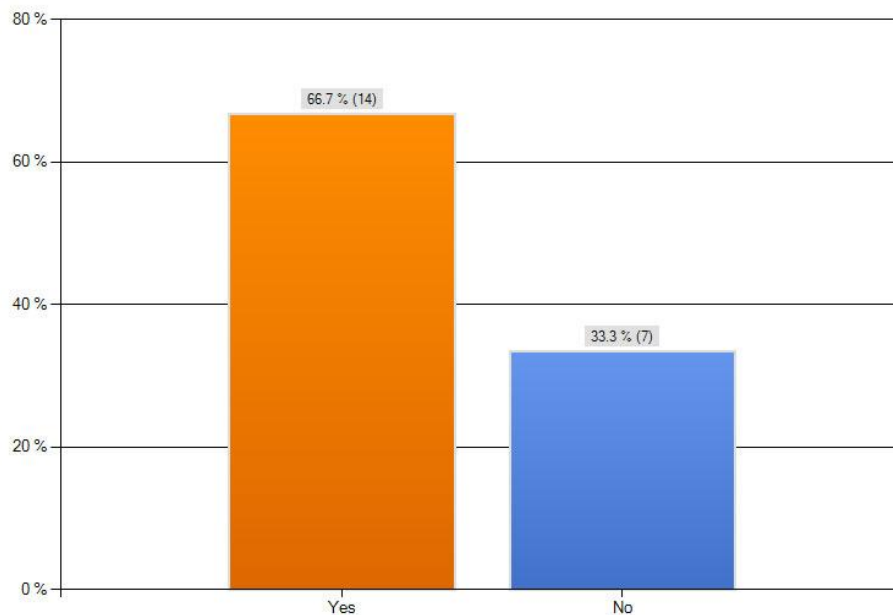
It was pleasing to see that the vast majority (73.9% - 17) of respondents said “Yes” that they were keen to be involved in future meetings to discuss how the allotments and community gardens could be developed. Post questionnaire various meetings have been held to discuss these various issues. One key result has been the development of a specific allotments and community gardens working group organised to work with the Project Development Officer to look at how best to take these developments forward.

Q16. Would you like to provide physical help/labour in creating the allotments and community gardens?

Respondents were also asked if they would like to offer physical help/labour to help create the allotments and community gardens site.



Would you like to provide physical help/labour in creating the allotments and community gardens?



The majority of respondents (66.7% - 14) said “Yes” they would be happy to offer their time and physical help/labour to help create the allotments and community gardens site. This positive response typifies and illustrates the enthusiasm of the group to get the allotment and community garden project up and running.

Q17. Do you have any other comments about the development of allotments and community gardens in Aden Country Park which haven't been covered previously?

The respondents were then asked if they had any other comments they wanted to make. A sample of comments is listed below:

- *“Can't wait for this to start not enough allotments round about the area”*
- *“Huge potential - surplus produce could be sold near cafe area to raise funds for charities, projects etc”*
- *“Could help integrate incomers into the area with common interests. Also attract visitors at specific times of the year e.g. pressing apples to sell juice in autumn etc”*
- *“It would be essential that children were permitted & accepted”*
- *“I would hope bee hives would be allowed and proper restrictions/enclosed areas are put in place for using toxic chemicals or GMO seed. People who choose to use these don't give others the same choice since they spread and contaminate in the wind”.*
- *“I do not agree with the idea. It will have a negative impact on the park - which is a country park for all to enjoy. The grounds teem with deer, birds etc and the whole point is to enjoy a peaceful walk in countryside, with play and exercise areas for children (and dogs!) as well as the cafe and museum. Turning over the grounds to allotments/community gardens will reduce the space available to everyone”*

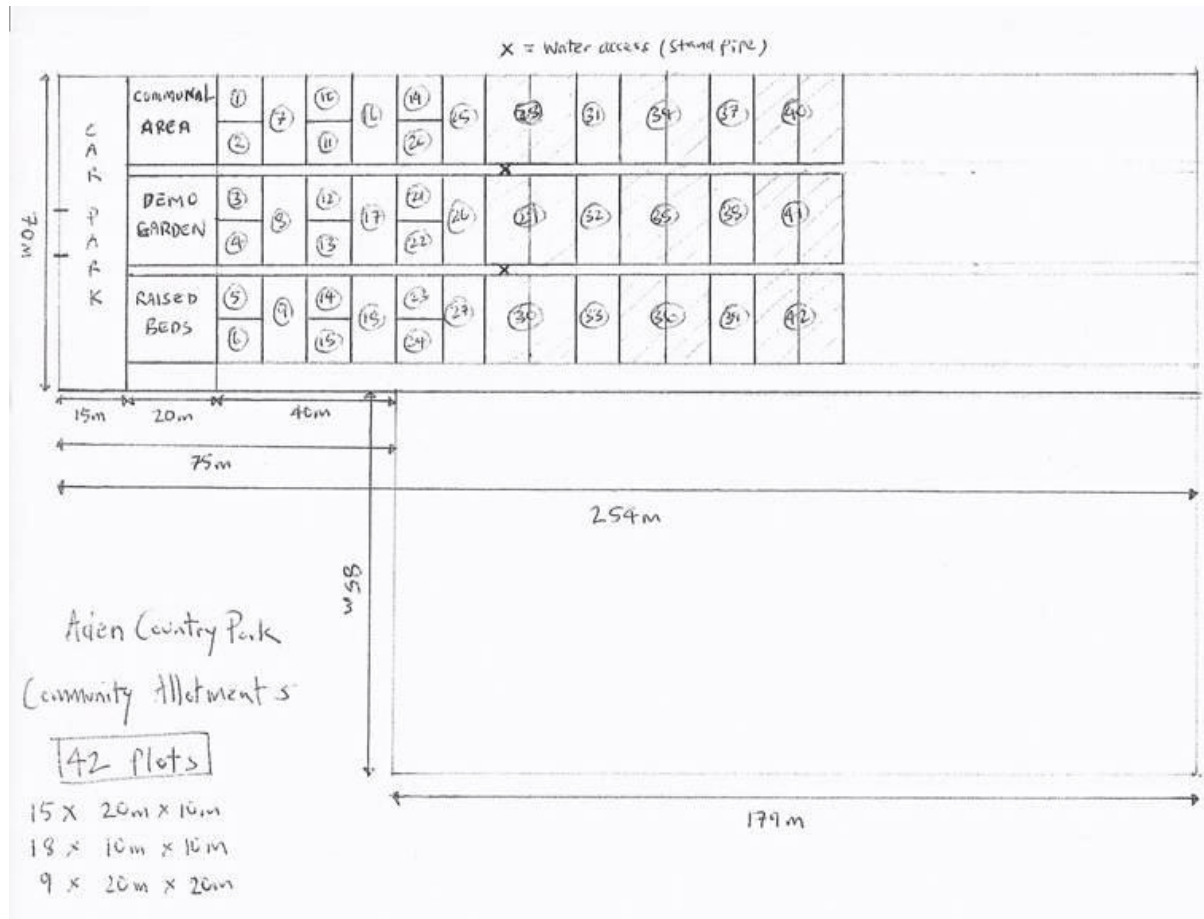
- *“It is a great project. I have a large garden at home to grow my own so would not use the facility but I think it is a great idea and offer my support to the project”*
- *“I think this is a very good idea for encouraging sustainable use of what is a very beautiful part of rural Aberdeenshire. Given the cost of food escalating in supermarkets and the quality going the opposite way.... allotments and community gardens would be a fantastic bonus... Well done Aden Park!”*

Overall the comments made were to this questionnaire were positive in nature, with the majority of people identifying the various benefits to the developing allotments and community gardens within the grounds of Aden Country Park.



5. Map of Proposed Site

A draft drawing of the proposed allotment & community garden site is attached below. Space has been allocated for a total of 42 allotments - 18 small plots (10m x 10m), 15 medium sized plots (20m x 10m), and 9 large plots (20m x 20m). Space has allocated for a communal area (20m x 20m), demo garden (20m x 20m), and an area with raised beds (20m x 20m) which could assist people with disabilities. There is also ample additional space for allotment growth.



6. Governance & Management

In this section we will explore possible governance and management structures / guidelines which need to be developed to deal with the various tenancy rules and agreements needed when developing an allotment & community garden site.

6.1. Options

There are two main management and governance options for the Aden Allotments & Community Gardens development, these include management by either:

1. The land provider i.e. the Local Authority (Aberdeenshire Council) or
2. Devolved management through the formation of an Aden Community Allotment Association ACAA (made up of the plot holders)

Aberdeenshire Council, and specifically Landscape Services, have stated that they are happy to work with the group as the land provider but have a prefer the developed management option where an Aden Community Allotment Association (ACAA) would be set up to deal with all management structures, guidelines, tenancy rules and agreements.

6.2. Devolved Management

Devolved management schemes can benefit both local authorities and their allotment tenants. The local authority can make savings with a reduced burden of administration, customer liaison and maintenance responsibilities. Plot holders can achieve a sense of pride and ownership of the allotment site enhancing its environment and reducing such problems as theft and anti-social behaviour from outsiders. They have a stake in the future development of the site and have opportunities to bring their own skills and expertise to new challenges in what is for many their retirement years. They also have greater opportunities to obtain funding from other sources apart from the Council.

The report 'Future for Allotments' stated "There is little doubt that, when successfully implemented, self-management schemes ensure greater control of a site by allotment holders and tend to work to the benefit of the site."

6.3. Aden Community Allotments Association (ACAA)

The first step toward starting a new allotment & community garden site has been carried out through the Investing in Ideas Big Lottery funding. The local community has been consulted to ascertain whether the idea of developing an allotment & community garden within Aden Country Park is a good one. The results of the consultation process (4. Questionnaire Analysis – from Page5 onwards) demonstrates that there is significant support for the idea.

The next key step also developed within this project was the formation of an Aden Allotment & Community Garden Working Group. The group is made up of interested, like-minded individuals who are keen to push the concept forward. Now that the group has been formed, the next key step is to formally constitute the group and to identify clear aims, and to allocate responsibilities.



6.4. Lease Arrangements

The lease arrangement between Aberdeenshire Council and an Aden Community Allotment Association (ACAA) should be negotiated to be a long-term arrangement i.e. twenty to twenty five years, as many funding bodies will not give grants if a lease is for less than that minimum time period. The lease should also be a separate arrangement than the tenancy agreement between plot holder and Aden Community Allotment Association (see 5. Tenancy Agreement below).

It should also be stated that if the local authority wishes to terminate the tenancy of land used as an allotment it must give the tenant a minimum of 12 months' notice to expire on or before 1 May or after 1 November in any year. Furthermore if a tenant fails to pay rent or to cultivate the allotment in accordance with the regulations then the Allotment Association or local authority can terminate the lease on one months' notice

6.5. Equal Opportunities

Allotments and community gardens operate within the spirit of equal opportunities and are normally rented on a first-come first-served basis, without preferential treatment. Your age, gender, race, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or health, are not a barrier to renting an allotment or community garden.

6.6. Tenancy Agreement

The tenancy agreement is a legally binding document setting out the rights and responsibilities of the plothead, and the plot provider (Aberdeenshire Council). A tenancy agreement must be signed when you rent an allotment. The tenancy agreement can be between the plothead and the land provider or in the case of Aden it would be suggested that the agreement is between the plothead and the Aden Community Allotment Association (ACAA).

The tenancy agreement should detail the plothead's responsibilities and what they can and cannot do with their plot. It should be made clear by the Association that a plot holder must ensure that their plot is maintained to a fit state to rent out again after they have moved on. The tenancy agreement should cover:

- Rent: amount (possibly including water charges; renting sheds or other structures); when it is due; how it is collected; how it is calculated for a proportion of the year; penalties for rent arrears.
- What can be grown on a plot.
- What standard of cultivation is expected and what happens if a plothead does not conform to this standard.
- What communal responsibilities will be laid on plotheads
- Prevention of and penalties for nuisance and annoyance.
- Prohibition of sub-letting to other people by the plothead.
- Observance of terms of lease.
- Determination of tenancy and notices to quit, compensation for improvements to plot on service of notice to quit.

- Prohibition of trade or business.
- Erection of sheds, greenhouses and other structures.

6.7. Tenant Restrictions

There are various restrictions applicable to tenants of an allotment garden. For example, a tenant is not entitled to sub-let an allotment, or to run an allotment plot as a business (Many ploholders donate surplus produce e.g. produce could be gifted to the Friends of Aden Country Park group to sell), and that there are only a few types of building permitted on an allotment site. The tenant must also not live more than one-mile outside the local authority district; otherwise the local authority is entitled to serve notice of termination.

6.8. Insurance

The allotment tenant, the allotment association and the land provider all have a common law duty of care to visitors to the allotment and community garden plot or site. This means that site associations and individuals may be liable to pay compensation for injuries arising to visitors through their negligence, for example failure to maintain equipment.

Allotment providers have a duty of care to their ploholders and Public Liability Insurance is a legal requirement. Devolved management allotment associations operating under a lease should check the terms of their lease to establish if the responsibility for purchasing insurance lies with the land provider (Aberdeenshire Council) or the Aden Community Allotment Association.

6.9. Rents & Funding

The way in which rents are calculated depends on the land provider, allotment association, and services which are included. Not surprisingly there are varying amounts paid for allotments which take into account the size of the plot (a half or starter plot generally being half the cost of a full plot), annual repairs, standing charges/rates/water charges etc which is normally divided between the total number of ploholders.

Some allotment providers may include water charges as part of the rent, or charge the site an annual fee. Any water charges should be detailed in the tenancy agreement.

A concession for the likes of pensioners, schools or community groups is also something that some providers offer.

The maintenance costs on allotment sites can be low, particularly if the ploholders volunteer to carry out basic maintenance themselves. Some of the running costs are public liability insurance, skip hire, administration, site and security maintenance.



Further information on the points covered above can all be found in the Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society (SAGS) a voluntary organisation representing allotment gardeners in Scotland. Membership includes people with wide experience of allotment management and regeneration who can offer individual help and advice on request. email: secretary@sags.org.uk website: www.sags.org.uk

6.10. Stonehaven Allotment Association Model

A management and governance model which could be adopted at Aden Country Park can be found at the allotments site in Stonehaven (<http://stonehavenallotments.org.uk>). A Stonehaven Allotment Association was set up to both apply for the necessary funding required and also to manage the 35 allotment plots at the edge of Baird Park in Stonehaven. The land provider is the local authority, Aberdeenshire Council, who lease the land to the Stonehaven Allotment Association.

The lease agreement was signed in November 2010 and all 35 plots were allocated in February 2011. All plots are similarly sized, each being about half the recognised size for a full allotment, being around 90 sqm. Facilities on each plot include a 6x4ft shed, composter and rainwater butt, along with access to water through three mains water taps located equal distance along the site.

The annual plot rental for 2011 was £45.00 per plot. In addition the annual membership to the Stonehaven Allotment Association is £10. Members can take advantage of the following benefits:-

- Attend our meetings
- Receive mailings
- Take a place on our waiting list
- Take advantage of our membership of Scottish Allotment and Gardens Society (SAGS)
- Take advantage of discounts which the Association is able to negotiate on behalf of members

Contact has been made with Neil Westland Chairman of the Stonehaven Allotment Association and it is planned that Neil will be invited to the next Aden Allotments & Community Gardens working group meeting.



7. Planning & Land Implications

There are various planning and land implications which need to be researched before the proposed allotments and community gardens development in Aden Country Park can go ahead i.e. soil suitability and a change of use from farm land to allotments and community gardens.

7.1. Planning Permission

As the land identified for the Aden allotments and community gardens site is situated on Aberdeenshire Council land it was important to contact the Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department of Infrastructure Services to clarify if any planning permission was needed.

The land in question has been leased for many years as either a field for the grazing of animals or crop growing. Currently a crop of barley, under sown with a crop of peas is being grown.

After contacting the local Buchan Planning Department regarding the formation of allotments and community Gardens within the existing agricultural field at Aden Country Park, the Planning Department confirmed that

“planning permission is not required as the development would not amount to a material change of use of the land”.

Furthermore that:

“Agriculture is defined within the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, the breeding and keeping of livestock (including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land), the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, nursery grounds and market gardens (i.e. the occupation of land as a nursery or garden for the sale of produce) and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes”.

“It is your responsibility to ensure you have obtained any other necessary consent from other agencies/services and I would encourage you to engage with colleagues in Landscape Services and Property (where applicable)”.

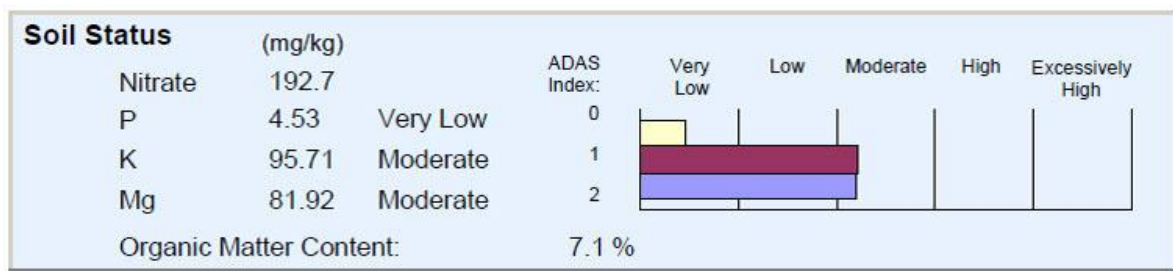
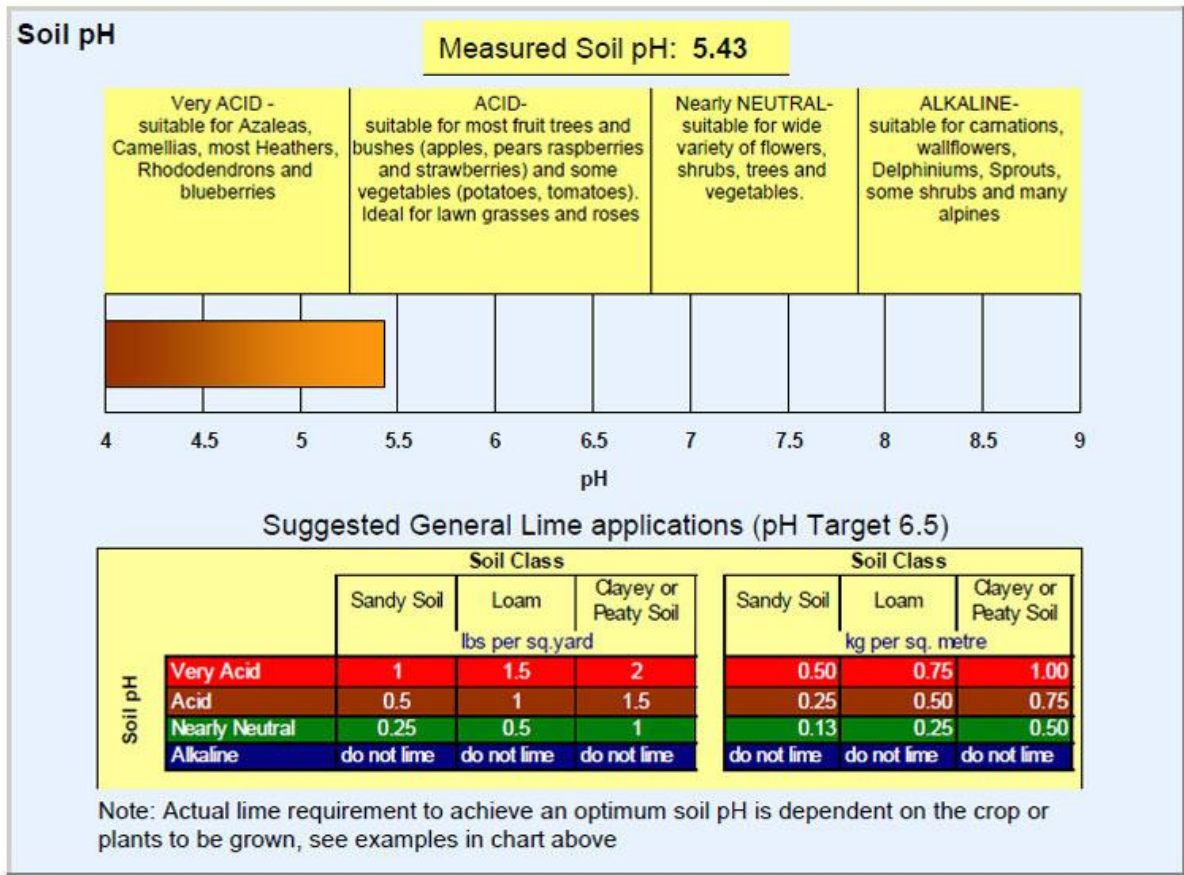
It should also be noted that a written agreement will also need to be drawn up between Property Service, Landscape Service

7.2. Soil Suitability

It is important to establish the soil suitability, condition, possibility of contamination, along with gathering information indicating soil health such as pH, type, and status of the soil on the plot of land/field identified in Aden Country Park. The Project Development Worker contacted the Macaulay Institute - Macaulay Soils

(www.macaulaysoils.com) in Aberdeen to carry out a detailed soil analysis. The results of which is illustrated below:

Soil Report for Aden Country Park Plot Reference Lab ID: 1100137



The Science

Soil pH

Analysis of soil pH determines whether a soil is 'acid' (pH < 7), 'neutral' (pH = 7) or 'alkaline' (pH > 7) and can influence the species of plants which may be grown. Soil pH can be increased on acidic soils by applying 'lime', commonly crushed limestone.

The addition of acidifying materials, e.g. ferrous sulphate can decrease the soil pH and increase acidity. Soil pH affects the availability of key plant nutrients, so knowing the pH of your soil is important. For example, below pH 6.5 magnesium (Mg) is less available for plants, and below pH 6 potassium (K) also becomes less available for plant uptake.

The term 'pH' describes the concentration of the hydrogen (H⁺) and hydroxide (OH⁻) ions in the soil solution. It is a logarithmic scale where the soil pH is the negative logarithm of the concentration (activity) of the H⁺ ions: $\text{pH} = -(\log[\text{H}^+])$

Therefore each unit change in soil pH below pH 7 (neutrality) represents an increase in the concentration of H⁺ ions of ten times, e.g. H⁺ ion concentration at pH 5 is ten times greater than at pH 6

Available Nutrients

Plants require certain elements for growth, e.g. phosphorous (P) for root growth, potassium (K) for flowers and fruit, and nitrogen (N) for foliage. The availability of these nutrients for use by the plant can affect the growth of the plant.

The concentration of available nutrients given in this report describes whether additional fertiliser, containing these nutrients, is required. The nutrients can be applied as either an inorganic manmade fertiliser or may be organic materials such as manure or compost. Care must be taken so as not to increase the concentration of nutrients to the point where they become detrimental to plant growth.

Available Nitrogen

Nitrogen is a major plant nutrient and can be found in soils in a variety of forms, some available to plants, e.g. nitrate and some which are unavailable, e.g. nitrogen associated with soil biomass or organic material. Soil nitrogen may change form, depending upon a variety of factors e.g. soil water concentration, temperature, cropping. Generally a soil nitrate concentration of approximately 100 mg/ kg maximises crop yields, but due to the dynamic nature of soil nitrogen and complex interactions within the soil biota, this is only an estimate. Long term nitrogen fertility is best maintained by good soil structure and organic matter inputs, e.g. manure.

Organic Matter

The organic matter present within a soil has an influence on a variety of soil parameters; it helps bind soil particles together into water stable aggregates thus aiding texture and aeration, it acts as major source of plant nutrients, e.g. phosphorous and in particular nitrogen, it effects the quantity of water a soil can store and acts as an energy source for the soil biota.

In addition it should also be noted that the Aden Country Park allotment and community garden site has recently (2012) had lime added to it. The addition of lime will both raise the pH level and lower acidity (sweeten the soil).



Different plants require different levels of acidity. Most vegetables thrive when the soil is slightly acid i.e. a pH level between 6.5 and 7, whereas Potatoes tend to prefer a lower pH, more acid soil. With the current pH level in the identified plot in Aden Country Park being 5.43 the land would therefore be suited to the growing of potatoes.

8. Feasibility Study/Action Plan & Costings

Now that site for the allotments and community gardens has been identified, an Aden Allotment & Community Gardens working group has been formed, and that facilities need for the site have been identified, the next step is to calculate all development costs, ensure that access to the allotment site is safe and not a barrier to people with disabilities.

8.1. Development Costs

The facilities identified as being important by the respondents of the questionnaire included: Access to Water, Rainwater Butt, Toilets, Plot Boundaries, Road Access, Secure Tool Store, Composting, Shared Shelter, Shed, Security Fencing, and Communal Area. A breakdown of all costs involved is listed in the table below.

The total development cost for the allotments and community gardens within the grounds of Aden Country Park are estimated at £52,344.93 (all cheapest quotes combined) and £65,784.23 (all most expensive quotes combined) respectively. The main difference in cost is from the cost of fencing the site, this could be the type of fencing quoted for i.e. there is a large range and cost of green mesh panel fencing.



Item / Work	Cost / Quote 1 (£)		Cost / Quote 2 (£)	
	Unit Cost	Total	Unit Cost	Total
Fencing				
Security Fencing 2m high mesh panel fence - green	£35.53 Ex VAT	£23,088.24 Ex VAT	£53.86 Ex VAT	£34,901.28 Ex VAT
Security Gate 5m wide matching double leaf gate	Sum	£1,330.85 Ex VAT	Sum	£1,435.80 Ex VAT
Total	£24,419.09 Ex VAT		£36,337.08 Ex VAT	
Company Name	Park Security Fencing		Alpha Fencing	
Ground Work				
Road Access Drain pipe, backfill ditch, create car access	£12,075.00 Ex VAT M&M Driveways		£12,500.00 Ex Vat Robbie Cadger	
Car Park Dig out area, lay membrane & sub-base				
Access to Water Install water pipe & two stand pipes				
Total				
Company Name				
Equipment (42 Allotments)				
Shed 6x4ft (Qty - 42)	£200	£8,399.58	£149.98	£6,299.16
Shed Base 6x4ft (Qty - 42)	£89	£3,738.00	£44.98	£1,889.16
Compost Bin - Homebase - 220L / B&Q - 330L	£34.99	£1,469.58	£34.98	£1,469.16
Water Butt Kit/Set Homebase - 100L / B&Q - 110L	£34.99	£1,469.58	£29.98	£1,259.16
Guttering				
50mm Downpipe 2m (Qty - 42)	£7.99	£335.58	£6.29	£246.18
76mm Gutter 2m (Qty - 42)	£5.79	£243.18	£3.99	£167.58
50mm Pipe Bracket 2m (Qty - 84)	£2.39	£200.76	£2.49	£209.16
76mm Stopend (Qty - 42)	£2.39	£100.38	£1.89	£79.38
76mm Support Bracket (Qty - 126)	£1.99	£250.74	£2.09	£263.34
76mm Stopend Outlet (Qty - 42)	£5.99	£251.58	£4.49	£188.58
Total	£16,458.96		£12,070.86	
Total (with any discount)	£13,167.17 (20% discount)			
Company Name	Homebase (Bridge of Don)		B & Q (Peterhead)	
Communal Areas				
Toilet Compost Toilet - no sewage drains	£1,580.00			
Tool Store & Shared Shelter Shire 10'x15' Wooden Loglap Shed	£2,199.98			
Total	£3,779.98			
Grand Total				
Fencing, Ground Work, Equipment, and Communal Area costs combined.	£52,344.93 Ex VAT Cheapest quotes combined		£65,784.23 Ex VAT Expensive quotes combined	

8.2. The Next Steps (Action Plan)

The next steps to the development of the allotments & community gardens site are as follows:

1. Work in partnership with all Aberdeenshire Council Services involved in the development of the site in allotments and community gardens i.e. Landscape, Property, and Planning - specifically on planning conditions and preparing an agreeable lease arrangement (from the Stonehaven example this could take some considerable time to do).
2. Using the Aden Allotment & Community Gardens working group as a basis, formally constitute the Aden Community Allotment Association (ACAA)
3. Assign someone ideally from the ACAA to be the Project Manager (normally the chairperson)
4. Involve the local Deer Community Council to assist with planning issues i.e. perhaps taking on the role of responsible agent for the conditions imposed by the planning committee.
5. Seek external advice from, and become a member of, the Scottish Allotments & Gardens Society (SAGS) and the Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens (FCFCG) re the tenancy agreement, insurance, lease etc
6. Work with Aberdeenshire Council Services, the Aden Development Worker & Buchan Development Partnership on writing and submitting one or more funding applications.
7. Carry out various fundraising activities (see below).

9. Fundraising

Although fundraising and generating income is vitally important for the development of the Aden Allotments and Community Gardens project, it is not the only answer. Securing and spending money is only one of the ways in which the Aden Allotment Association group can meet its aims. Obviously money is essential for some things but in-kind support (e.g. in the form of advice, volunteers (shown through the questionnaire) and donations of materials and services) can meet many of your group's needs. It's important to remember the value of the voluntary time and energy.

Every year a large amount of groups similar to the Aden Allotment Association seek funding to develop sites similar to Aden so competition for funding is, therefore, increasingly tough. It is therefore important to demonstrate that the Aden development offers good value for money and that the Aden group is well managed.

There are three distinct elements to fundraising:

1. Reducing the groups need for money
2. Raising money within the local community
3. Securing funding from other sources such as charitable trusts, government, local council, the lottery and companies

1. Reducing the groups need for money

- Do you attract voluntary help and have good support systems for volunteers?
- Do you get preferential discounts from your suppliers?



- Do you practice the 5 Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Recycle and regularly Review?
- Do you encourage and make use of donations of services and resources (donations in-kind)?
- Are there any co-ops or buying consortiums that you can belong to?
- Do you get involved in bartering or belong to a Local Exchange Trading?

2. Raising money within the local community

- The donation of services and resources (donations in-kind) - how easy is it for people to donate services and resources to your group e.g. set up volunteer notices on and off line; produce and distribute a 'wish list' asking for donations (plant cuttings, trees, flower pots, tools, timber etc); promote opportunities in local press/radio stations, approach local business (shops, garden centres, agricultural shops/warehouses etc)
- Income generation through the sale of services and goods and hire of facilities e.g. social events (barbeques, picnics, dances, treasure hunts etc); selling surplus plants, cuttings and produce (farmers market); processes produce (jams); practical training etc
- Local fundraising activities e.g. run fundraising activities or stalls at other local events (farmers market); set up a donation box; set up a group of volunteers to organise fundraising activities; set up your own events (car boot sales, raffles, duck races, vegetable and flower shows).

3. Securing funding from other sources such as charitable trusts, government, local council, the lottery and companies

- What exactly are we hoping to improve or introduce on the site?
- Who will it benefit and why?
- When? An initial timetable is useful, even if you need to change it later.
- What will it cost?

All community gardens are unique, locally managed pieces of land that develop in response to and reflect the needs of the communities in which they are based.

Community gardens are as much about helping communities and people to grow as they are about plants and animals. They all grow plants but many also provide a wide variety of social, recreational, educational and environmental services, facilities and opportunities that are generated by and help meet local needs.

The usual driving force behind their creation, and the key to their success, is that through community gardens local people find appropriate solutions to local problems, and make a positive contribution to regenerating their communities.

There are variety of different funding opportunities and possible income streams to develop the Allotments & Community Garden project. Some of the main funding bodies likely to fund such a project are listed below:



- **Climate Challenge Fund (CCF)**

<http://ccf.keepsotlandbeautiful.org>

Climate Challenge Fund grants are primarily designed to help communities reduce their carbon emissions however action should also lead to other community benefits as well as a sustainable legacy.

The projects funded will be expected to be ambitious in their work to reduce carbon emissions over the lifetime of the Climate Challenge Fund and with the reductions continuing in the future as part of a strong legacy of your community's activities. Applications should also aim to strengthen local economies, improve community cohesion and other social objectives alongside making significant carbon emissions reductions.

Available Funding

Up to £150,000 per year (Communities can apply to the CCF more than once. Some communities find it helpful to be able to initially apply for a smaller amount of funding to allow them to develop the capacity to submit a more ambitious application).

Deadline

The next deadline for the Full Application Form is 5pm on Friday 7th September 2012. Panel Date is Wednesday 24th October 2012

- **Awards for All, Scotland**

<http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland>

Awards for All gives grants of between £500 and £10,000 for people to take part in art, sport and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

We can fund a wide range of activities through the Programme and want to support projects that meet our outcomes.

The outcomes for Awards for All Scotland are:

1. People have better chances in life.
2. Communities are safer, stronger and more able to work together to tackle inequalities.
3. People have better and more sustainable services and environments.
4. People and communities are healthier.

If your project could help us achieve one or more of these outcomes, Awards for All could be the right scheme for you.

You can apply for a grant from Awards for All if:



- You are a not-for-profit / voluntary and community sector group, community council, statutory body or school.
- You have a bank account requiring at least 2 unrelated people to sign cheques or make withdrawals.
- You have a management committee of 3 or more unrelated members.
- You can spend the grant within 1 year.

You can contact our Information Team for advice on 0300 123 7110 or email them at Scotland@awardsforall.org.uk

- **Community Spaces Scotland**

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_spaces_scotland

Community Spaces Scotland will support communities to become more involved in, and to take responsibility for, their local environment, communal spaces and places.

Through Community Spaces Scotland we will focus on bringing communities together to enjoy better communal spaces and places. We will do this by providing funding for communities to improve the appearance, functionality, accessibility, effectiveness and sustainability of local spaces and places (including buildings). We hope this will help communities become stronger and more resilient.

What type of projects will we fund?

Community spaces can mean projects involving meeting spaces, recreation areas or community green spaces. Examples include providing facilities for community activity through the development and improvement of:

- local parks
- community paths and gardens
- play parks
- allotments and community growing spaces
- community centres
- village halls.

Your project must aim to achieve all of these three outcomes

1. Communities come together to make better use of local spaces and places
2. Communities come together to improve their environment
3. Communities come together to get healthier and be more active

Available Funding

We expect most grants we make in Community Spaces Scotland to be for £100,000 or less, but will accept applications for between £10,000 and £250,000. We can fund projects for up to two years and can meet up to 95 per cent of your project costs.



Who can apply?

We are targeting our funding at communities with the greatest level of need based upon the Scottish Government's Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Our online postcode eligibility checker will confirm whether your project is located within a target area which we have identified as being eligible for this funding programme.

While we cannot fund local authorities as lead applicants under this programme we welcome a partnership approach between eligible groups and local authorities.

How to apply

The standard application process for the Community Spaces Scotland programme has two stages:

Stage one – For organisations that have an idea for a project which needs development. Tell us about your project idea, and we will make a decision based on this as to whether you should progress to stage two.

Stage two – Organisations whose stage one application has gained approval will be given a stage two application form. This is much more detailed and you will have eight months to draft it and develop your project.

Deadline

The first round of the programme will open on 14 June 2011 and will close on 2 December 2011. We expect to give decisions on whether you can proceed to stage two in February 2012. Stage two applications will need to be submitted by 12 October 2012 and you will receive your stage two decision by February 2013.

Development funding

If you think your project plan requires further development, you can apply to us for development funding.

The purpose of development funding is to strengthen your capital project and ensure the best fit between what you want to do and what we want to invest in. We can fund a range of development activities to a total of between £500 and £15,000 to help you strengthen your stage two application. This includes work to:

- develop your project's outcomes
- increase your ability to deliver these outcomes
- help you assess the viability of your project

Development funding can cover costs such as architect and other building professional fees, survey and valuation costs, planning and legal fees. We cannot fund any costs incurred or spending committed before you accept our



development grant offer. You should only apply for costs that will help you get ready for submitting your stage two application. Development funding is only available to develop capital projects.

- **Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)**

www.snh.gov.uk/funding

Our funding priorities

Our grants focus on projects that get more people and communities actively involved in and caring for Scotland's nature and landscapes. We're looking to fund a variety of projects that help us to deliver key outcomes for people and nature. Our funding priorities for each outcome are:

More people engaging with nature and landscapes

We want to get more people and communities involved in:

- outdoor recreation, volunteering and outdoor learning
- action to improve, protect and manage habitats, species and landscapes
- citizen science and biological recording

Improved management of nature and landscapes

We want to:

- improve the planning and management of landscapes
- improve wildlife management
- improve the management and use of natural resources

Community Action Grants

For projects that are:

- requesting funding between £1,000 and £20,000
- 12 months or less
- short term projects that promote community action

This grant category DOES NOT support staff posts.

There is no set deadline for Community Action Grants. You can apply at any time. Applications will be considered from 8 May onwards.

It is expected that this will be a highly competitive grant category. Only those projects that align closely with the Community Action Grant priorities and are the highest priority will be supported.

Natural Project Grants

For projects that are generally:

- requesting funding of £10,000 and over
- more than 12 months (generally up to 3 years)
- longer term delivery and implementation projects



- and/or requesting funding for staff posts (regardless of project length or value of funding request)

This grant category has a two-stage application process.

The next deadline for Proposals will be 31 May 2012.

Proposals for the 31 May deadline will generally be for projects that will start in 2012-13 (1 April – 31 March). Further deadlines are expected in September and December

- **The Robertson Trust**

www.therobertsontrust.org.uk

The Robertson Trust is an independent Scottish grant-making Trust which exists to provide financial support to charities. In practice, this enables the Trustees to donate to a wide range of charitable objectives where the work takes place in, or has an impact on, Scotland.

Priority Areas

The Trust has four priority areas which are:

Health

This category includes activities which promote health, as well as those which seek to prevent or treat sickness and disease. Examples include projects which work with children who are at risk of misusing drugs or alcohol or are affected by parental substance misuse, and with people recovering from addictions to assist them to rebuild their lives.

Care

This category is broadly defined. Examples include palliative care, care for older people, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues, people who are homeless and offenders and their families. Support is given to charities working at both local and national level. The category includes sports and arts projects which have a specifically therapeutic purpose.

Education & Training

This category includes support for community-based education activities, capital projects at Universities and F.E. Colleges and provision for people with special educational needs. The Trust is particularly interested in supporting projects, which increase access and opportunity, develop recognised Centres of Excellence and contribute to the growth of the Scottish economy.

Community Arts & Sport

This category is primarily aimed at encouraging young people to participate in artistic and sporting activities within their local community. Projects should demonstrate that they provide access and opportunity and/or support emerging talent. The Trust is particularly interested in supporting activities which increase the use of existing facilities; however, capital projects which seek to widen



opportunity, access and participation, as well as improve provision, will also be considered.

While these priority areas account for approx. two-thirds of the Trust's expenditure each year, applications will be considered from most other areas of charitable activity, including:

- work with children, young people and families
- preservation of the environment
- the strengthening of local communities
- the development of culture, heritage and science
- animal welfare
- the saving of lives

Overall priority will be given to those projects and posts which relate to direct service delivery.

Types of Donation

The Robertson Trust currently disburses around £9 million per year in donations. There are no minimum or maximum donations, but the following information should be noted. Donations are classified according to four main types, to which different guidelines apply.

Small Donations comprise revenue donations of up to £5,000 and capital donations of up to £10,000. The application process is designed to be straight-forward and this is an ideal starting point for charities who have done little fundraising before or those with one-off funding appeals.

Main Donations comprise revenue donations in excess of £5,000 and capital donations of between £10,000 and £100,000. Revenue grants rarely exceed £15,000 a year and may be for core or project funding for a maximum initial period of 3 years. Capital donations will be for a maximum of 10% of the total project cost.

Major Capital Donations comprise capital donations in excess of £100,000, for which the overall project costs will normally be in excess of £1 million. Major capital donations will contribute specifically to one of the Trust's priority areas other than where an exceptional case is made. Applications will be considered three times a year, in January, May and September, to allow the Trustees to compare the merits of different applications. Organisations considering applying for a major donation are advised to contact the Trust beforehand for an informal discussion on eligibility, process and timing.

Development Donations: A list of current special development areas can be found in the Development section of the website

Assessment Process



The Trustees meet every two months usually in May, July, September, November, January and March. The Trust does not publish deadlines for each meeting and you are advised to submit your application when it is ready.

The next deadline for submitting applications is 15th December, with the Trustees meeting on the 31st January.

The Assessment Team tries to process applications as soon as possible and in most circumstances you should not have to wait more than three months. You may be contacted by a member of the Assessment Team for more information or to arrange a visit.

- **Parks for People**

www.hlf.org.uk/HowtoApply/programmes/Pages/parksforpeople.aspx

budget : £250,000 to £5million

Parks for People offers grants for projects that regenerate public parks of national, regional or local heritage value.

The definition of a park for this programme is as follows:
an existing designed urban or rural green space, the main purpose of which is for informal recreation and enjoyment. It includes parks, gardens, squares, walks and promenades.

Programme priorities

For us to consider your park for funding you must show us:

- the community values the park as part of their heritage;
- the parks meets local social, economic and environmental needs; and
- the park management actively involves local people.

Your project must deliver all the following five outcomes:

- increasing the range of audiences;
- conserving and improving the heritage value;
- increasing the range of volunteers involved;
- improving skills and knowledge through learning and training; and
- improving management and maintenance.

Application process

We assess all applications in two rounds. There are two closing dates for applications. You can submit a first-round or second-round application at either date.

- 31 August for a decision in December
- 28 February for a decision in June

We strongly recommend you contact us for advice before making an application.



10. Resources/Links

- **Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS)**
A voluntary organisation representing allotment gardeners in Scotland. Affiliated to NSALG (see below). Membership includes people with wide experience of allotment management and regeneration who can offer individual help and advice on request.
email: secretary@sags.org.uk website: www.sags.org.uk
- **Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG)**
Promotes, supports and represents city farms, community gardens and school farms throughout the UK. Tel: 0117 9231800 email: admin@farmgarden.org.uk
website: www.farmgarden.org.uk
- **Trellis (The Scottish Therapeutic Gardening Network)**
Supports, promotes and develops therapeutic horticulture in Scotland.
Tel: 01738 624 348 email: info@trellisscotland.org.uk website: www.trellisscotland.org.uk
- **National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG)**
A full time professional organisation representing the interests of allotment gardeners throughout the UK. Manages specialised insurance and legal advice schemes for members as well as a cheap seed scheme and gardening advice. Tel: 01536 266576 email: natsoc@nsalg.org.uk website: www.nsalg.org.uk
- **Garden Organic (formerly HDRA)**
A charity which aims to research and promote organic gardening techniques. Offers advice on a wide variety of related topics. Tel: 0247 630 3517
email: enquiry@hdra.org.uk website: www.gardenorganic.org.uk
- **Macaulay Institute**
Centre for research on land use based in Aberdeen. Its commercial arm, Macaulay Soils will supply kits for DIY soil testing or do a detailed soil analysis for you. website: www.macaulaysoils.com
- **Allotments Regeneration Initiative (ARI)**
Supports and develops allotments regeneration and the creation of brand new allotment sites in the UK. Tel: 0117 963 1551 email: ari@farmgarden.org.uk
website: www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari
- **Royal Horticultural Society**
Leading UK gardening charity dedicated to advancing horticulture and promoting good gardening. Supports gardening education in schools, conducts research on plant varieties, runs demonstration gardens, offers advice to

members and non-members, approves judges for gardening shows. Tel: 0845 260 2000 email: info@rhs.org.uk website: www.rhs.org.uk/home

- **Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society**
Based in Edinburgh with Scotland-wide membership. Offers lectures and workshops and runs a demonstration allotment. Annual awards for contributions to Scottish Horticulture. website: www.rchs.co.uk
- **Waste Aware Scotland**
Has information on composting on its website and runs Master Composter Scheme with trained volunteers to encourage home composting. website: www.wasteawarescotland.org.uk
- **Beechgrove Garden**
A BBC Scotland programme with associated website and fact sheets specifically aimed at gardening in Scottish conditions. website: www.beechgrove.co.uk
- **Scottish Education and Action for Development (SEAD)**
An organisation which aims to tackle the causes of poverty, social injustice and environmental degradation and to support community based action for positive social change. Has a comprehensive list of bodies prepared to fund small community groups, including allotment associations. website: www.sead.org.uk/resources/communityaction-toolkit/funding-sources

