Session 5 - Growing Good Food

CHAIR: Emma Halliday, Greenspace Scotland

- 1. A food growing strategy for Glasgow
 - Ken Harris, Sustainable Development Officer, Glasgow City Council
- 2. Community Gardens: Community Benefits
 - Prof Deirdre Shaw, Professor of Marketing and Consumer Research, Glasgow University & Dr Helen Traill, Post-doc research assistant, Adam Smith Business School, Glasgow University
- 3. Food growing with children and young people
 - Thomas Malone, Shettleston Community Garden

#GlasgowFoodSummit











Community gardens, community benefits?

Deirdre Shaw (deirdre.shaw@glasgow.ac.uk) Helen Traill (helen.traill@glasgow.ac.uk)

Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow

What do we know?

- Sustainable communities of care in Glasgow John Crossan, Robert McMaster, Andrew Cumbers, Deirdre Shaw
 - https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media 622132 en.pdf
 - http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/160960/ (scaling up community action for tackling climate change)
 - http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/138000/ (the work of community gardens)
 - http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/116501/ (contesting neoliberal urbanism in Glasgow's community gardens)
 - http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/129972/ (places of prosumption)
- Community as idea and community practice Helen Traill
 - http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/3789/ (thesis online)
- Baltic Street Adventure Playground

Health and wellbeing benefits

 I decided instead of sitting in the house all day, the garden would get me out and about, it gives me something to do... Me being epileptic as well, it [the garden] helps bring down my stress levels with having something on my mind [...] I was in a bad way, drugs and stuff – working the gardens has saved my life (Volunteer)

 Getting out and away from 'staring at the wallpaper in the estate' (Casual community garden user)



Community Empowerment

- Having a voice, seeing results from action, taking on new roles
- Expressing a right to the city
- But difficulties with that
 - Funding often short term and in a competitive environment
 - Leases can be ambiguous or restrictive (eg no permanent structures)



Social inclusion and community cohesion

- Encouraging behaviours of knowing and being known, connecting, solidarity and mutual support, openness
- Encouraging a positive sense of place
- Flip side is closed communities – and sometimes projects can be a kind of tacitly exclusionary, despite an inclusive rhetoric



Spaces of growth

- Learning environments (e.g., skills, education)
- Gateway to the broader conversation (e.g., UA/food justice/food security)
 - But sometimes have to start from: why grow potatoes when you can buy them for 20p reduced in the supermarket? (Worker)
 - You can't begin from politics (Volunteer)



What now?

Community Food Hub research with Baltic Street Adventure Playground









EUROPE & SCOTLAND

European Social Fund Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future







Thomas Malone Shettleston Community Growing Project ...The smelly Welly Club

Runs From April until October

After school during term time (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Easter/Summer/October holidays (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Up to 16 children on each session.

What We Do.....



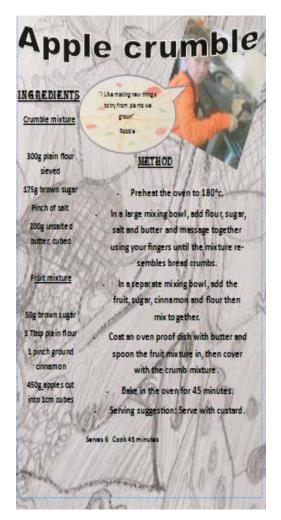


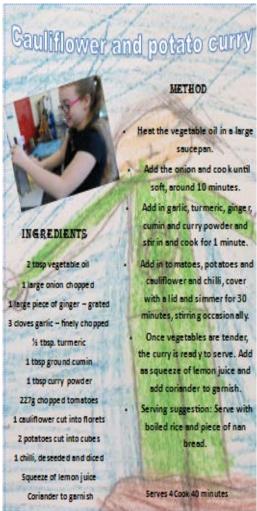






The Smelly Welly Cook Book....A Sneaky Peak







Bringing everyone together





Working within the local schools

Provide training to staff to grow their confidence in teaching children

Education in food growing, environment and wildlife

Promote the after school club

Help in delivering projects with high school groups

Some Quotes

"As a staff member I have learned a lot from Thomas about how to organise groups planting and preparing ground in the school grounds. I liked the use of scavenger hunts for information to keep the children active"

"As a teacher I feel more confident leading the gardening club now as I know more about plants and when to plant them. Tom also gave me different ideas of what activities to plan (cooking, bug hunting...) which the children loved!

The children were starting to feel a lot more responsible for the garden and took more and more initiatives week by week"

Residential trips







