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COMMUNITY GARDENING

Guidance on how to create your
own bee-autiful community
garden in Buckingham.



Approved: Oct 2021



Buckingham
Town Council

A Draft Guide to Creating a Community Garden

Location

Ensure it is within walking distance from your home or from potential participants in the project. Check on the aspect of the plot – if you want your plants to grow well, you will need to be sure the site gets plenty of sun. Ideally, you will want to be located close to a water source. The site should be reasonably flat and not contain very large pieces of concrete, as large amounts of rubble or debris can be difficult to shift and there could be a cost to have it cleared by machinery.

Sites should be at least 2m from any highway, and must not interfere with a right of way, limit vision on a highway or involve the removal of any trees.

Security



Ideally, your garden should have a small boundary such as a low fence around it, to show the boundary and encourage people to respect the area.



Obtaining Permission

it is illegal to use land without obtaining the owner's permission, so take the information you have about the location of the site and as a first point of call, contact Buckingham Town Council who are likely to know if the land belongs to the Town Council or Buckinghamshire Council. If the land is not Council owned, you may then have to do your search via the Land Registry. The relevant organisation will then review the land to decide whether it is suitable for a community garden.

To operate a community garden, you should have public liability insurance cover to indemnify you against being held responsible for the injury, disability or death of people visiting or taking part in your activities. This will be arranged by the Town Council for gardeners who register with the Council and agree to act as a Town Council volunteer in creating and managing a particular area.

Finance & Fundraising

The long term sustainability of your garden can come from in-kind support in the form of good advice, good volunteers and donations of materials and services. You may be able to arrange a garden for no or minimal cost using cuttings and unwanted plants from friends and neighbours.



Health & Safety

When operating a community garden, the health and safety of all users is paramount.

Common hazards in community gardens are as follows:

- poisonous plants
- pathways and walkways
- use of wheelbarrows
- use of garden tools
- use of power and electrical tools
- compost heaps
- dogs.

A risk assessment will be needed for each site; the Town Council will provide a draft risk assessment and support volunteers to complete one for each site. Only domestic gardening tools will be allowed.



Contact

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