

Any thoughts or comments?

This is a vital asset for our community.

Wonderful site providing training, support, community produce, education on nature for children and adults, huge local asset

The garden is a gorgeous green space and is an asset to the community.. it should be kept and nurtured

More private allotments would be welcomed

so important at least this is saved

The garden is beautiful and useful for the mental and physical well-being of both patients and volunteers. The NHS should be willing to transfer the land for a nominal price to the volunteers given that gardening is proven to be so beneficial to the patients

Yes, the ground should be saved as to protect some green spaces for Dunbar. The rate of housing development means the essence of Dunbar and what it means to be a part of a community is quickly disappearing.

It is such a good therapeutic and learning atmosphere, an oasis 🙏👉🙏

A huge amount of time and effort across the community has created a valuable and well used resource . This green space should remain to help mitigate the loss of habitat nearby with the ongoing housing developments.

Seems only right that this wonderful space, that volunteers have spent so many hundreds of hours working on, should stay part of the community enjoyed by and available to everyone.

I think the community garden at Belhaven hospital grounds is a vital site for the health and well-being of the local community in Dunbar. It is a great resource for beaver, cub and scouts and many other groups and individuals who have used it and continue to use it. The events are successful and this land should be protected for this continued use by Belhaven Community garden as per the deed of trust established in 1905.

The land must be protected through the local development plan and reclassified accordingly. Whilst it would be desirable to accommodate an informal access path through the garden, there is a risk that a Sustrans style path, whether lit or not, is incompatible and see the deterioration of this as a quiet space, rather it'll become a thoroughfare and attract litter and vandalism (evidence of that already). A path could be sensibly routed either where it is today or if there is a restructuring of the buildings along the brewery wall, without it impinging on green space. The buildings on face value look perfectly re-usable, but in extremis could accommodate a new approach to housing development, in a somewhat constrained site. Could you get the whole thing through a community buyout?

This is a valuable community resource as both a peaceful space and a facility to allow people to connect with growing food.

Vital it grows into the future for Dunbar and the Tree Scheme

This is a really valuable resource to the many different people and groups who use it, with potential to benefit many more. It is a place of beauty and biodiversity which should be celebrated and secured for the future.

COMMUNITY COMMUNITY COMMUNITY

think about it.....!!!

We need more community owned spaces

In Memory of my Late Mother Irene.

This is a wonderful place which should belong to all the community.

Just wondering if sale of the grounds is against the initial conditions of the gift of the lands .

There is no opportunity to acquire allotment space for any residents of Dunbar. Therefore this is an opportunity that we should not miss to allow this garden to continue as a community asset.

Definitely should be allowed to stay as it caters for the whole community both physically and mentally and it allows school children the chance to see where their food comes from, ie From Farm to Fork..

I don't volunteer at the garden or help out (yet) even though I'd like to, but I will say that having the garden accessible shaves a good 15 minutes off of my daily commute. It offers a quiet, tranquil space between home and work where I can sit for a while after a stressful day or even drink my coffee in the morning before a shift. The garden is used in so many ways like this by the community, and I would like to see it continue and get involved.

This is a fabulous asset to the community, so many people are involved and there is so much potential to do more. I really hope that it is possible to keep this space viable for the whole community.

It's a space needed by local people in Dunbar. The work they do here is amazing.

Dunbar has enough building sites, we now need to consider the quality of life, green space and hobbies left for the original towns folk. Not to mention how much this area will promote & help assist the pollinators and encourage more nature and foliage

This garden is a precious place to Dunbar, used for essential services, personal connections, mental health and children's health projects. It would be heartbreaking to see it closed or sold off. Spaces like this are the heart of communities, and represent hours of hard work and love from local people. We need this space to remain public and for everyone.

This is such a big community asset, so much work has gone in to developing and looking after it. It should definitely be kept for the community to enjoy.

At a post pandemic time when people are more isolated than ever, Belhaven Garden brings people together. There are so many different ways to be involved, so there is something for everyone, whether that's care of the garden for as little or as long as you like, running or attending workshops, or having your own little allotment. or just popping in for a chat! There is always a learning opportunity there, and there is always an opportunity for peace somewhere in the garden. It is also really important for the hospital, providing therapeutic space. It has become an important part of Belhaven and Dunbar. I have moved away from Dunbar now, but keep an eye on the garden as I valued it when I lived there and I am so impressed with what they have continued to develop.

Such a big community asset with so very many people and benefiting

It's a wonderful, peaceful space that has an important place in our community.

The garden is serving great purpose to local community and its amazing to have it next door. My son loves to go there and watch plants grow.

It would be very sad to lose such a great community asset.

This is something that should not be lost to the community

The garden is an enormous asset to the community, and it has given much pleasure to me and many others. I cannot imagine losing it. I would love to see it transferred to community ownership.

This is a absolutely essential community asset where people, many of them vulnerable, isolated and struggling with various life challenges find sanctuary, learn skills, make connections and build a haven of biodiversity in the middle of a town which has grown too fast to keep up with itself. It is a precious resource which has taken years to establish, with the potential to bring so much more benefit to people and planet over coming years.

It would be a tragedy to lose such a precious asset for our community and for the local environment. This is a well-established and highly valued part of so many people's lives locally, and has become a really important green lung space for a town under the pressure of over-development. Health and wellbeing of people and nature need to be prioritised.

This is already an amazing community facility offering wonderful opportunities for training and multi generational activities. The hard work already carried out on the garden would continue in earnest to create a beautiful haven for the community. It would be a real shame for all this hard effort, love and dedication to end up going to waste.

So much hard work and love has gone into Belhaven Community Garden. And the return has been the health and wellbeing of those involved. It would be terrible to lose this oasis.

The closure of Belhaven Hospital was a betrayal of the community after many years of promises (from 2009) that the hospital would not close until new facilities were in place. There was no community consultation on closure in 2024. A Planning for an Older People consultation had identified that the public wished health and social care facilities to remain. Local Place Plan work by a number of community groups has evidenced a requirement for the site to remain available for health and social care needs. The community is clear that the site must not be sold for housing. The closure followed almost £1 million being spent on remedial legionella works on the water system. The Garden provides an essential community growing space, a green lung for the Belhaven community as well as therapeutic opportunities for those with mental or physical health needs. It is essential that NHS Lothian liaise and listen to the community on the future of the Garden.

i think its a most needed idea

A vital community asset to be retained in community ownership for the benefit of all. We need green spaces for health.

Given the emphasis on good mental health such an asset plays an important role in this area. Can any local lawyers advise on legal aspects given the length of time the area has been used a Community Garden?

The Belhaven garden is an invaluable asset to the community. I have invested a lot of time and effort in the garden and it has helped me to integrate into the local community and link with others I would not have otherwise. I have learned a lot about growing food and organic techniques and methods such as no dig..

This is a sustainable use of the land for the benefit of all. By using the land as growing spaces it helps biodiversity, the trees mitigate climate change, the food contributes to reducing local food poverty and community ownership and free access improves wellbeing.

I think the community ownership of the garden could be the conduit for developing a holistic and supportive space for caring for those who can't care for themselves to live and die with dignity, as well a hub for preventive medicine and treatments, and short term care for those who want to be close to loved ones but aren't quite ready to go home. This land must be kept for the community's health and well-being.

This is an amazing community space which also does so much for biodiversity. To lose something which has been created with so much love would be heartbreaking. By having ownership of the site it will provide security and also future opportunities for the wider community.

Don't let this go, we the people of Dunbar need this space!

This is an essential space for the wellbeing of many in our communities.

Belhaven Community Garden is an essential green space for the rapidly expanding population of Dunbar offering many health and social benefits to people living in the area. Community ownership is an obvious next step

This space is such an asset for the local community and volunteers who attend. It supports and educates a wide section of people. It has been ongoing for 12 years and gets better each year

Essential to keep the garden in community ownership. Fantastic benefits to mental health food growing and biodiversity.

Important that the original intent behind the Warrender estate continues to be met on this site in some way. The rest of the immediate agricultural land has been built on or will be and so this would create another important pocket of 'greenspace' between the A1 and Belhaven for continued community use and associated wellbeing benefits.

Given the emphasis on good mental health such an asset plays an important role in this area. Can any local lawyers advise on legal aspects given the length of time the area has been used a Community Garden?

Belhaven Community gardens has been a fantastic community project, much needed and enjoyed by all. It has brought together many people young and old to share and learn in an accepting environment for the improvement of everyone's mental health. Long may it continue.
Gardening has huge health benefits for individuals and a community garden has enormous positive mental health benefits for the community
The ground was gifted to the community. It should stay within ownership of the community and not sold for profit.
Important space for growing and sharing. My grandson goes with the school and it encourages his interest in gardening and the environment
It's important to have areas not all houses.
It would encourage more involvement from community if transfer took place,in my view
I run a brownie group and would like to get them to help in it sometime.
Sustaining Dunbar support local people to make use of spaces important to them and have already managed the site to become a space for well being.
https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/green-plan/nhs-scotland-sustainability-resources#:~:text=NHS%20Scotland%20launched%20the%202022,environmentally%20and%20socially%20sustainable%20service.
Could potentially use this as further ammunition to keep the garden!
We are so lucky to have a unique community garden.
Continuing the Community Garden is in line with the original gift by the Warrender Estate. The positive benefits of the Community Garden are too important to well being and health to be ignored.
It would be terrible loss to the community for this garden to be destroyed and built upon, as well as the great detrimental impact on local biodiversity. The community is exactly the sort of initiative we need for a sustainable future. As a psychotherapist, it is absolutely clear to me the links between nature, mental health and community. The garden is a safe and supportive space for vulnerable people, providing a service that cannot currently be adequately met by a struggling NHS. The garden is consistently proactive in involving the community across all age groups and has for years run inclusive events. The benefits of this rich, busy area of land are varied and many for the whole Dunbar community. To see it sold and taken out of community hands would be an absolute travesty and a mockery of any political intent to increase community connection, climate adaptation, and biodiversity.
Over the years we have used the gardens with our group of children from the local after school club. We are a charity and unfortunately suffered financially due to the global pandemic, leaving us with limited staff, unable to take groups off site, term time. We do however, visit through the school holidays. I cannot express how beneficial our visits have been to many of our children, some who have no access to green space other than Belhaven community gardens. It would in my opinion have such a negative impact on our children who use the garden time to learn about nutrition, growing their own vegetables, and connecting with nature, improving mental health.
Very much needed asset for the community
The original donor's intention should be respected
It would be a terrible step backwards to lose the Community garden at Belhaven. It provides benefits to so many people in so many ways. Please don't treat it as a commodity
This is a a key community asset that does a great amount to improve the health of our town, and can do even more in the future!
Would be a very sad day if this space is used for yet more new houses instead of something to help the community
this is a unique resource with so much potential to offer therapeutic experiences, to improve health and to educate our community about sustainable living
This is an important protected space for nature which has a vital role in public health. It is also an important learning space.

Community ownership would secure the grounds as a garden and allow the people who have nurtured this space for over a decade to continue to grow, protect the green space, orchard and biodiversity in a time where we really need to consciously protect these spaces. It would also give them freedom to expand their activities and events for the benefit of the community.

This is a precious space for all people of all ages to walk, sit, engage with nature, grow fruit and vegetables and most importantly do this together thus benefiting our wellbeing and our community .

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I work for Trellis, the Scottish therapeutic gardening network, and would be happy to support the community ownership bid through provision of evidence we have collected with regard to the major benefits and cost saving impact of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture. [Www.trellis-scotland.org.uk](http://www.trellis-scotland.org.uk)
We need green spaces for our mental and physical health and the health of our environment. The community work done here is amazing and so valuable and to continue and hopefully expand this would be priceless.

This should be gifted to the community who already look after it so well.

I fully support the continuation of Belhaven Community Garden. The garden helps people with mental health issues and provides a valuable community resource to help people connect with others.

Any strictly commercial disposal of this ground for development and onward disposal for profit would go against the terms of the original gift. Future continued use as a community garden/asset would meet the spirit of the 1905 transfer of the site to the community.

Regarding any financial implications the Dunbar Area Partnership should be approached to help support as asset transfer.

Health is supported meaningfully by 'place' - an environment which supports physical, emotional, mental & spiritual health, fostering connection & belonging, loved and cared for by community is incredibly important. The investment of community into this space already has great longevity and our NHS has an obligation to safeguard this through this CAT process. This garden has been a place of Intergenerational connection & relationships, making it even more important.

The garden is both relaxing and inspiring. I have used it for physical rehabilitation, stress relief and a place of connection with others. The garden offers so much that I do hope it will remain part of the Belhaven community.

Excellent teaching resource

Hope the transfer asset to NHS Lothian goes through toot sweet, that's one big hurdle though.

Could there be a gardening celebrity on a Scottish or national level that could be approached, perhaps even involved with bringing the garden's plight to major attention?

I'm a local, plus being at the garden is great (I've got mental health etc trouble) it's relaxing to go to plus Niomai, Tim, Philp etc from there are so great

I helped plant some of the trees as new saplings when I was nine years old and have seen them grow year after year into the fruit bearing trees they are now I'm 20! I've taken part in several activities and events over the years at the garden and seeing the volunteers putting in month after month, year after year's work is inspiring. To see the garden have such a positive effect for not only the volunteers but those coming from the hospital and further away is a heartwarming feeling that can't be replaced.

The garden is a space where I can get to know many new people in the community I wouldn't have otherwise, who are passionate about nature and local environment, who use the space for effective farming. It would be wrong to have this place taken down by not letting the community have their chance to productively use the space in an ever individualising world.

I hope that it stays in the hands of the community

Community has been building it up for a long time, and there's no point destroying a perfectly good and sustainable garden
A huge orchard
The garden is such a great idea
The Community Garden has helped so many people with both physical and mental health. They have encompassed the whole idea of health and well being in the community.
The volunteers have done an excellent job of managing this garden for many years. I have every confidence that they can continue to manage this space in an efficient, pro-eco and professional manner.
Such a lovely and vital community asset! Important for mental health.
If successful make sure it includes access routes to the site
The garden is an important area in the community. Both the garden and the hospital should remain for the benefit of local inhabitants.
Belhaven Community Garden is a wonderful asset for the Dunbar community that has taken volunteers years to build and plant. It would be beyond tragic to see it destroyed for development.
Spaces like this are needed for the wellbeing of the community
The council must consider what communities actually want and need to thrive. It is not always more housing without the supporting infrastructure which is what is happening in Dunbar. Community spaces are vanishing and it is always the most in need that lose out.
So much hard work has been put into this community resource over the last 12 years that it would be a tragedy to see the garden shut down. It's there for anybody in the community to get involved in. Just come along on a Saturday afternoon at 2 and make new friends whilst contributing to the workload that a garden of this size inevitably produces. I've been a volunteer for the last 3 years since I came to Dunbar and it's a joy to be involved. The future of this valuable community resource will be assured by an asset transfer. The alternative is likely to be more housing or even worse a longstanding derelict site.
The grounds were bequeathed for the purposes of supporting public health. Community gardens have been proven to contribute massively towards mental health and general wellness and the gardens provide an invaluable space to the community in this respect. It would also be a slap in the face to all those who have given their time over the years to maintain the gardens, which have been an inspiration to many other gardens and orchards in the county. Please do not take this precious resource away.
Excited to see it grow further!
This is an amazing resource for anyone with mental health issues, a place to meet with others to talk or just to get your hands in the soil and enjoy the garden and the fresh air. It has already helped many, let's keep it for our community's benefit 
These spaces are crucial to mental health, biodiversity, community building and a well functioning society.
Ideally Belhaven Hospital might become sheltered homes and the Garden a wonderful resource for the residents and the wider community. Growing good food locally and sustainably, and engaging the public in this, is increasingly important for public health and the climate emergency.
It's scandalous that this important facility and surrounding land is being sold by the NHS. The investment that has been made in the Belhaven Community Garden must be protected and so it is critical that this valuable community asset must be transferred to Sustaining Dunbar so the community can continue to access and enjoy this important green space.
A tremendous community resource for all. Some enjoy working hard, others maybe just a stroll through the garden. Either way it is a place that lifts the spirit and can produce incredible produce (best raspberries, apples and corn-on-the-cob ever).
It's a beautiful space that is great for kids.

As noted above, the community gardens is a priceless valuable asset for Dunbar, wildlife, biodiversity, health and well-being, education, food resilience, community spirit and civic pride.

I visit the Community Garden whenever I'm in Dunbar to see family. It's clear to me that it is a hugely valuable and much-loved resource, with massive benefits to people's mental and physical health. It's a space to grow food, learn new skills, socialise, relax, reflect, and recuperate. I believe its loss would be devastating both to the individuals who use the garden, and to the community that has developed around it. Community ownership would secure the future of the garden and allow it to be further developed to benefit more people.

I wholeheartedly agree with your group protecting the asset that you have made the Community Garden into for the future benefit of the Community. Well done.

Too precious a community asset to lose

A wonderful shared space that is so important to the community. I fully endorse and support community ownership to allow security and future proofing of this asset.

Please keep this wonderful space in the Dunbar community.

This is so important for the community

In the fading days of my dear friends' life, I wheeled him around this peaceful idyll full of scent, colour, music and life. It provided great solace and peace. Long may that continue.

A wonderful place to promote mental health and wellbeing for the community.

A beautiful and important local community area which needs to be kept.

Losing this would further diminish the quality of life in our neighbourhood.

Green spaces like the community garden need to be treasured and protected for the wellbeing of us all.

It's a no-brainer...

Would be a real shame to lose - and loss of an important resource that is to the benefit of all locally.

The garden is always open, filled with gardening and or educational groups that continue to grow and support each other. The connections formed here strengthen the wider network of people moving to Dunbar and bridge different neighbourhoods and ages in the town. People love taking care of the land in the garden and enjoy the time outdoors which is reflected through the routines formed in gardening together. The garden provides a wonderful green space to gather together in and learn from.

I have enjoyed the tranquility of the garden and would like it to remain as a green space for the enjoyment of future visitors and generations.

An invaluable community asset for so many reasons which could be even more useful if a secure future existed rather than dependence of NHS planning viscidissitudes.

It is a wonderful and necessary resource for the community

An asset transfer would continue to honour the original gift of land from the Warrender Estate. I volunteered in the garden in the early stages and wish it to continue to flourish in the community for the community.

It is important that this stays a community asset, providing local food and the beneficial societal effects of communal gardening.

Such an important community facility. Interesting to note the orchard fits in with East Lothian Council's recently proposed Tree and Woodland Strategy document where the council have identified the need to protect community orchards.

You are doing great work.

Brilliant idea. Wonderful asset to all of you. It's a spot of paradise - get it in Community ownership.

A valuable community asset

Belhaven Community Garden is a much loved and extremely important space for the community and nature. It provides a place for people to meet and share their passion for gardening and for new people to learn new skills-benefitting physical and mental health. The garden has become a fantastic place for nature to flourish with trees, wildflower meadows, native plants and hedging as well as an extensive dead hedge-all providing important habitats for all sorts of local wildlife (including the hedgehog which is now at risk of extinction in the UK). The garden provides perfect opportunities to showcase wildlife gardening and encourages people to replicate this in their own outdoor spaces throughout Dunbar. It would be a true loss to our community if the garden wasn't to survive and there is such potential to use this area for many new projects in future years.

The garden is a great place for helping with mental stress, for the whole community.

BCG is a vital resource not just for the important role it plays in maintaining the green space but also for the essential role it plays for mental health and wellbeing.

I hope that Belhaven Community Garden continues to develop, involve more of the community and create a peaceful, mindful area for everyone

This garden is an important space to encourage social contact and better mental health.

It's only fair after all the effort Sarah Turnill and others have put in to the space and after Dunbar being robbed of the limited green space they had it would be an absolute disgrace to take this too! The last thing Dunbar needs is more houses, that aren't affordable for those who originate from Dunbar. All the commuting population who make up the majority of the new builds haven't even spent more than a visit to the chip shop to support the local high street. The new generation need to learn the importance of being able to live off the land and the importance of the value of green space if the cost of living crisis continues to worsen and the planet is being pumped full of greenhouse gases.

In my opinion, as a worker in Belhaven who is well aware of the money spent renovating to a high standard, the buildings could be such a valuable asset to helping eradicate the current problem with antisocial behaviour that has been a rising issue by making it a place for children to have a safe place to go like years ago when a staffed youth club was available in Dunbar. Unlike now, the children resort to sitting in McDonald's, Asda or the woods which is being reported as antisocial, but what other options do they have to get outdoors and get a break from the screentime and actually learn to socialise in person.

It is important that we keep green spaces available for public and community good. Many NHS/Public Health research papers have highlighted the importance of access to green space, gardening, community networks etc as key to good mental & physical health and as a preventative measure against ill health. It would therefore be a positive approach by NHS Lothian to agree to a Community Asset Transfer to keep the garden available for the good of the community.

The land has been gifted to the local community and should be transferred into community ownership to protect it from development

This is already an important space where the community have invested heavily. We need to keep these spaces green.

An important place to help with social isolation, create community. It's a safe place for humans and wildlife alike.

This is such an important place for the community and an opportunity for expanded programming on gardens and food cultivation. On a personal note, I spent many an hour in this garden while my wife was in hospice at Belhaven. It provided healing for my soul and time for my wife and I to have some beauty around us while we spent our last days together before she passed away.

The original grant of the land for the building of a healthcare facility to benefit the people of Belhaven and Dunbar was generated by a need which remains just as real today. It is a long established fact that good health is fostered by access to green spaces; by engaging in gardening and otherwise with the natural world; by sharing in communal activities. Gardening falls within the general term "agricultural" purposes" and the existing garden has an established track record of providing "pleasure grounds" for former staff and patients of the hospital, as well as the wider general public. There can be little doubt that the transfer of the garden ground and associated facilities to Sustaining Dunbar would be seen by the original grantors of the land as in keeping with their intentions and that they would welcome the extension of access to the wider local community. Recent years have seen the loss of a significant amount of green space in the Dunbar townscape. This ground is a precious resource which should be preserved as a green space for this and future generations.

Community gardens are essential to our community- helps with learning the art of growing - creating friendships and mental health as we communicate with nature and satisfaction of growing.

This land was gifted to the local community over 100 years ago. We recognise the short-term pain of NHS Lothian, but to deprive many in the local community of the use of this land simply because an unelected group of people based elsewhere chose to shut a hospital as part of a short-term solution to a cash crisis seems to be unjust and to reject the spirit of the original gift. Many have benefitted from this land - either as inpatients in the hospital beds (an option now removed from the community) so I strongly object to the other therapeutic benefit of the land as a community garden which is consistent with the original gift of the land,. Furthermore we as a family, can personally vouch for the benefit this community garden has given to many, including a close family member, during a time of ill-health: both the gardening and the community of people who work there. We are aware of some recent vandalism to the site, and would argue that closing something that has given real benefit to many in the community simply because it is a relatively easy target for youths who need proper access to appropriate facilities for them is missing the point: it doesn't solve the problem for the youth and deprives others, including many young people of something with tangible benefit. I believe that the local community is perfectly capable of continuing to manage the garden and increase the range of people who can partake and thus benefit.

A valuable resource for the community

A lovely space to enjoy and good for your mental health

Oh my gosh, yes. Please. Please. community owned "anythings" are vital for the future of the world as we know it. I know this. my family knows this. my kids need to know this can be their future. my friends already do. Please, truly, look on this and understand that in Dunbar we understand community, we understand what it means, we understand how a little in our neighbourhood can ripple to the world from there. Please support this future.

It's a great community space and would be a real loss

This is a vital part of the community. The wonderful volunteers have welcomed community groups such as the Beavers that I have helped out with. The volunteers are always keen to include the whole community in so many important ways.

It would be great to protect the opportunity for people to volunteer in support of a garden managed by Sustaining Dunbar

The garden benefits locals in so many ways and the loss of it would have a significantly detrimental affect on the community.

It's a really important greenspace for the community that has had years of work put in to creating a beautiful apple orchard and garden that has regular users and has on going potential to be developed as an important community asset used by schools and community groups.

Community ownership is a no-brainer.....the way to go, surely.....

This is very important place in the our high-tech civilization, where people make their hands dirty for one of the most rewarding aspects: producing food, respecting the nature, gaining disappearing skills, fighting climate changes. It must not be destroyed.

Sustaining Dunbar do a great job and this seems like the obvious option to keep this initiative going following the sad closure of our hospital.

The land should be gifted to the local community

This is so important for so many people

My mother was in Belhaven hospital for about two months 4 years ago. I visited the garden a lot when visiting her, and was hugely impressed by the effort and energy going into it. I would strongly support securing its future.

It was an invaluable space in proximity to the hospital when my Grandmother was receiving care and contains many happy memories of an otherwise challenging time.

Ground given to a body be ie a hospital for the use of patients and the community cannot then be taken back. I feel very strongly that our government should stand by this and not have the powers to change or over rule. If given to the NHS it should keep to the purpose of improving health or given over to the community. Certainly not sold off for building houses.

A vital vibrant community resource that deserves long term funded support.

The garden is a vital community asset and spaces like these should be supported and cherished especially in the context of high land prices forcing people on low incomes away from growing, climate change, food insecurity and lack of accessible third spaces for the public.

The Belhaven Community Garden has developed local horticultural and biodiversity talent that has helped in the planning of the Winterfield Wildlife Garden. It would be a huge loss to Dunbar and the surrounding area to lose this wonderful facility. Friends of Winterfield wish Belhaven Community Garden good luck with its bid to save its space through community ownership.

Anything that keeps it for The Community and an all inclusive outdoor space

It would be lovely for it to be a community space and for people with limited free time to be able to take part in activities for/ in the garden

It would be beyond tragic for this very special and much loved site to be lost. So much time, effort and love has been poured into the community garden and it should remain protected for many years to come.

BCG is a well established resource for a very wide range of people, including me and my family and friends. I have met many people from all walks of life, volunteered, attended courses and learned much about growing food and its value. The garden is open to everyone and is an important hub for the community. Its loss would be tragic.

Spaces like this are so so important - especially in a time when new houses are shrouding every inch of land. We need growing areas to teach children about the land, give friendship and company to vulnerable and lonely people and just generally bring locals Together.

Who do you send letters of support to in E.L.C & NHS Lothian (online & postal address).Many people are put off writing letters by not knowing what to say, sharing an example letter that lists the points & wording you want to get across makes it much easier and quicker for people to respond.

Surely if it was gifted to the community in the first place that it reverts back to local community. Is there not a legal angle?

I Retired from Belhaven hospital in 2015 having worked there for 35 yrs. The gardens were just getting established and it was lovely for patients to walk round. Must be so lovely now. I haven't been back recently.

I was brought up not far from the hospital, worked there and had various relatives who were patients there. I always saw both the hospital and its grounds as a community hospital. As such, I believe both the gardens and the hospital buildings should be owned by the community for the benefit of the community. I also worked for many years in a therapeutic gardening community in Glasgow. The benefits to both mental and physical health are well documented, and with a recent increase in Social Prescribing, and a move to increasingly "grow your own" , the community gardens at Belhaven seem ideal for this to take place.

PLEASE KEEP OUR EXQUISITE MOST AMAZING GREEN SPACE BELHAVEN GARDEN my autistic child and us as a family love this special place my sister who is unwell also has enjoyed this gorgeous space ❤️ please help us keep this gorgeous most prized community space please

I think it's really important that this space is preserved and remains accessible for the community.

We would love to see the entire set of buildings also remain in community use

This will be an amazing opportunity for the community

The BCG has played a crucial role in supporting the wellbeing of Dunbar community over the last decade. It is an important local asset and a precious resource. It should be cherished and safeguarded for many years to come.

Would it be possible to do some kind of wellbeing assessment of the value of it to people? Happy to help in any way

Possibility of regular events for fundraising to keep the space tidy!

Belhaven Hospital buildings should also be re-purposed for the community - arts centre, drama, childcare, training space - many options

This is an asset to the community and should absolutely be kept for future generations

The garden provides an excellent space where everyone in the community can experience a safe outdoor space.

I think the community garden is a great place for the community & wildlife

I think it is essential to maintain this area as a community garden. In an era when all the green spaces in the town and environs seem to be given over to housing, it provides an oasis of calm and connection to nature for our increasingly stressed population, and an opportunity to learn about the mechanics of and communally grow healthy food especially for those whose budgets are stretched to the limits during this time of austerity. The social aspect of the project and opportunities to volunteer and engage in physical exercise only enhance the benefits to all who use the garden.

Belhaven Community Garden is already well established which gives joy to a large number of people. Folk benefit from growing their own fruit and veg. The orchard is already producing many apples which have been processed and sold locally. The bees kept in the hive are well cared for and produce local honey. I visit often as it gives me a sense of wellbeing and is good for my mental health. I have attended various events there and I would miss it a lot if it is destroyed.

This is such an important community space providing a variety of benefits for all the community. It is so easily accessible and an amazing space for all ages and nature

Very necessary to have these community oriented projects

Important greenspace for local food growing & learning within an otherwise urban setting. Helps connect people with the environment and to understand the importance of local, sustainable food. Brings wellbeing benefits for volunteers and generally has become part of the community, creating a sense of pride and cohesion.

An excellent community space. Attended a willow workshop here

This area should not be lost, it's a community resource used by many. The links with the community activities through the Crunchy are essential.

It is essential for community health that we have spaces like this for the whole community

We use this with our small children all the time. It's a wonderful asset as Dunbar doesn't actually have a lot of green space. It has to stay.

We are a young family and find this place wonderful.

My family use the space.

Community shared spaces are so important for good mental health, and this was the original intention of the family when it was gifted.

It would be such a shame to see this go! It has so many benefits for the local community.

Such an important and productive green space. Biodiversity is as important as housing development.

I agree with the above statement.

Assets like this are rare. They must be nurtured and protected. The benefits that are gained from them are often not measured in pounds, and are therefore impossible to compare to the return generated from property developments, say. I would urge the powers that be to be brave and do the right thing to ensure that Belhaven Community Garden receives the protection that it so deserves.

This is a very important community space.

NHS Lothian - this community garden is for current and future patients.....hands off absolutely a must keep

Incredible asset, much enjoyed and hopefully looking forward to appreciate further in the future.

I agree with these statements.

Great garden for the local community and getting kids outdoors

This is so important. Not only for mental health and education but for ecology. There are types of apple grown here that can't be found anywhere else and exposure to these is so important for the community

No

Absolutely. It's helped me in many ways and my elderly/disabled mum loves to visit

It is part of the network of community owned / run business and activity within Dunbar that are doing so much to keep the town alive as a vibrant local community despite the pressures on it to be absorbed as a satellite to Edinburgh. The garden is a vital part of that offer that appeals to all ages and abilities

Totally agree with this

This is the kind of project that should be encouraged in our community. A great space being put to good use for the community

Immeasurable value to the local community. It is essentially land currently owned by the people which would be lost if sold to developers for the sake of one more house.

It would be truly tragic to lose this valuable community space.

Community spaces are so important to keep going and especially outdoor ones with established growing spaces.

TOTALLY AGREE !!!

The space should continue to provide a health and well-being garden and space for the local community, as it has historically.

It is essential community initiatives like this are nurtured and spaces like this preserved.

We need to protect spaces like this from developers so community ownership sounds like a good way to ensure it stays as an accessible garden

It's a really important community resource. It's used by lots of groups. We took the beavers there and they loved it.

Community gardens are in a great setting and well supported by community leave it there don't let housing on this land.

Given how green spaces in and around Dunbar are being gobbled up by house builders it is very important that the Community has the right to keep and maintain this land

As my young grandson once remarked " cala are stealing our green fields" Out of the mouth of babies

Even young children recognise the need for green spaces to be saved

A definite asset to the community!

People have been working and improving the garden for years giving health and solace to many and giving fresh fruit and vegetables to the gardeners and the hospital as well as giving money from the sale of vegetables to charity. It would be such a loss if this project had to fold

Great for the community and meeting people especially people with mental health and disabilities

The loss of this garden to yet more housing would deprive locals and those further afield , of a peaceful retreat (good for mental well being), local, pesticide free vegetables, fruit and flowers a place to meet and make friends , a space for teaching children about the need for caring for their environment etc.

Belhaven Community Garden has served the Community on so many levels. Participants of the garden has only positive experiences encompassing all aspects of physical and mental well-being, as well as providing a purpose to life and targeting loneliness. The decision to close the whole site has gone a step too far and the decision did not take into account the holistic need for the Community Garden.

Be great if youths in close vicinity of the site could have some engagement with the plans - maybe they could have some input into a part of the site which they could use for fun or socialising in, so the feel included. This would help deter anti-social behaviour on the site. Well done and all the best for a great community asset, Mark

It is essential to maintain nature rich areas and not just see them as a financial asset

The garden is of enormous value as a healing space for the local community and must not be lost!

I think funding for supported havens and tranquil spaces like the Bellhaven Community Garden - run by users for the benefit of people and wildlife - should be prioritised. I have no doubt the benefits to health/mental health of our wider community easily outweigh any costs. I also think Community Gardens are a vital, wide reaching means to express collective community and humanity. Start local, go global!

We need to protect green space and community land

I believe the garden is a great space not just for gardening, growing produce, and increasing biodiversity within the town but it is also a refuge; a safe haven of tranquility that has helped a lot of people.

When I moved to Dunbar I started volunteering at the community garden. It's a great place to meet people from the community and where everyone is welcome, a place of learning, a place of well being, a space you can leave your worries behind.

These places are so important both for individuals and community spirit

The gardens are a great community and environmental asset that it would be tragic to lose.

It's a vital community resource and the gifted by deed land should not be misappropriated by government bodies to dispose of as they see fit.

A place of value for those who maintain and use this space as well as for nature.

The garden is so great, Philp, Tim, Niomai, are the best amongst others

It's an asset to and for the community as originally set up for. Physical/mental health wellbeing is paramount today more than ever so we must keep this space

It is a fantastic facility and it needs to continue.

A very valuable resource for the community and a special place for wellbeing, healing, learning and connections for individuals and groups. Benefits and the value of being able to access spaces like these have become a much higher profile following the pandemic & lockdown. Evidenced by use and feedback from users and professionals alike. Health wise, this also meets recognised 'alternative prescribing' for general wellness & recovery.

So beneficial to have such spaces to support mental health in the community.

It is a very useful facility for local people providing all sorts of mental and physical health benefits. There is social interaction and information about horticulture and good quality food available which is particularly useful at the present time. As it was gifted then it should be kept in line with the original purpose and not built upon

Before I had children, I used to volunteer at the garden and it's where I first met some people in dunbar, when I was pretty socially isolated out with my new job. It's such a welcoming, place, it's been a big part of my life in many ways, it's a tradition to come apple day (which my son attended only 6 weeks old). Apples are his favourite now! We attend many of the workshops, seed swaps, every bonfire night I gather together people to have bonfire with a guy, share food and set up games to let the kids play freely in safety. Joel saw his first toad here, in fact my first toad too. and I hope once my son is a little bit older to get a plot myself and start volunteering again. It makes me feel part of something. It's a key location for bringing together facets of our community. It's much more than allotments, it's a shared endeavour, shared knowledge skill sets and shared place to shelter and host events to bring people together. A crucial place to support good mental wellbeing. It really is a community garden I have received so many raspberries from there over the years! It is such an important asset to Dunbar in so many ways. I just wanted to convey the personal aspect who why I would be devastated to lose this amazing vibrant, flourishing garden for me, my son and my community and friends. I can't sing it's praises highly enough and I don't want to lose it.

The years of work need to be saved

Belhaven community garden provides not only a much needed space for wildlife and food production in Dunbar, but also an excellent example of a very active community managed project with huge commitment from all involved.

It is a beautiful, natural garden to walk through, the volunteers would ensure it remains the case.

The 'gift' of the hospital to support public health is being sold off, a sad indictment of today where finance is more important than the public good...

Please can the garden remain under the stewardship of Sustaining Dunbar, with the ownership transferring accordingly. This would be consistent with the original ethos of the gift from the Warrender Estate.

Belhaven Community Garden should be maintained because it provides essential therapeutic, educational, and environmental benefits to the community, fostering health, well-being, and biodiversity.

Any loss of therapeutic space and access goes against all the Scottish and UK government health and wellbeing strategies.

It serves a need which is not easily met otherwise.

It's a vital resource to the community, taking it away would have consequences and potentially add to the workload of NHS Lothian due to increased illness from lack of access to healthy food and exercise and a higher incidence of mental illness - I believe the NHS prescribe gardening as a form of therapy for depression-so how can they justify taking it away from a community..

A wonderful resource for the community

A wonderful community asset which is being well used and thoughtfully treasured. Please do not sell on for private profit.

Belhaven Community Garden offers all the assets to the community listed above. It is also an important source of food for cash strapped individuals and groups.

Those who have planted the fruit trees and bushes, who look after the bees, devote hours and hours of planting and growing should be able to continue to gather their harvest and to continue to provide support for all the welfare benefits happening here.

This is a crucial vibrant green space in our expanding town and should continue as a garden for all the right reasons.

With Green Space ever decreasing in East Lothian due to housing, spaces like The Belhaven Community Garden are vital for people's physical and mental wellbeing, it's also a place where people of all abilities can come together, teach and help each other about living a healthier lifestyle.

So much work from so many people should continue to be enjoyed by the community. An essential for those without their own gardens.

So much hard work has gone into the garden. It would be tragic to lose it.

There is a very strong case for promotion of health and well being. The NHS are selling off its assets due to cuts in budgets. These cuts are affecting provision of mental health services. A lot of services previously provided by NHS are being tendered out to 3rd sector but they are struggling often for long term funding and contracts are short term and again based on cost effectiveness. As a community mental health worker I support people to access community projects such as this to promote health and well-being. They are invaluable. Community, mutual aid and self/collective determinism really are the answer to good mental health for communities and the individuals within. We need to fight for ourselves, together.

The garden has been a key part of the local community for years with different generations having different memories of the spaces. With the changes Dunbar is facing, please allow the locals to hold on to this land for the benefit of the local community.

Such a brilliant community resource- wellbeing for all. I used to live nearby and worked at the garden for sustaining Dunbar... and I witnessed the gifts this garden offers.

The town needs that kind of space. It benefits everyone and is so important to what Dunbar stands for: a community that cares for its future and where children can grow with it.

This is an exemplary community resource that is simply too valuable to be dismantled

Green space is vital for mental health for everyone especially those with disabilities.

No to new builds. This space is so valuable to the community.

We need to keep spaces like this to help people's mental health & well being. We don't need more houses.

This is a precious resource, a place of wellbeing and passive therapy.

Belhaven Hospital has been a mainstay since the early 1900s. Opening up its grounds to accommodate a garden is the best way to keep the site active in remembrance of the building now that it is being closed down..

This place is precious and one of the places that makes Dunbar - Dunbar.

This is an important community resource. Upstream health promoting initiatives are key to early prevention of inequitable health outcomes. Denying communities access to them compromises the Scottish government's commitment to reducing health inequities in communities.

Is disgraceful that this even has to be something that we need to save. This should remain a garden

The failure to secure this for the community would show a lack of the community spirit which so defines Dunbar

Vital community asset

This is and was intended to be a community asset and should remain as such. There is no justifiable reason for depriving the community of this space.

A really important piece of land and project for the local community! Please don't take away this valuable resource.

Working in harmony with nature to plant, tend and harvest is intrinsic to supporting positive physical and mental health for all.

The Community Garden is a haven of peace and biodiversity with the potential to offer practical involvement for many groups and individuals.

It seems inconceivable that NHS Lothian can act in this unilateral manner

This land was gifted to the community, not ELC. The community have established lovely gardens which are enjoyed by many and run by an enthusiastic group of community minded volunteers. I suspect that the council will want to sell the land for even more house building, even although Dunbar has had more than it's fair share, this should not be allowed to happen.

It is a valued resource for many people in Dunbar. Important for ecology, health and wellbeing.

Why should they sell the garden with the hospital when the garden is still open

It is important to the community to continue and build on the wonderful work that has already happened there. We must not lose any more green spaces.

<p>It is important to preserve access to green spaces.</p> <p>I've been there a few times and it's been an excellent experience. The workshops offered and learnings that are passed on to the whole community and priceless.</p>
<p>It is great for learning new things</p> <p>It is time the community and mental wellbeing came before yet more development, there is enough of that going on at the moment.</p>
<p>Certainly a community asset and should remain so.</p> <p>It's a valuable community resource, not only for the very welcome produce but also for the mental health benefits we all gain from working in the fresh air and sharing time and experiences with others.</p>
<p>With ever increasing building of houses having a community garden space is more important than ever.</p>
<p>Would be tragic and short sighted to loose this community resource</p>
<p>The gardens are such an amazing local resource, so restful, peaceful. A hidden treasure</p> <p>The BCG is such an important all inclusive activity which helps many people with different health complaints, including mental and physical health. I have indeed benefited personally from being a member.</p>
<p>This space is such a beating heart of the community on lots of levels; much needed green space, which is being used for nourishing foods, sense of purpose & a haven for wildlife, which is fast disappearing.</p>
<p>Fantastic community garden operate by committed volunteers and used by many local people</p>
<p>Every town or village community needs a place where local people of all ages can come together to create something special - and for Belhaven the Community Garden, with its beautiful orchard, is this place. The carefully chosen varieties of fruit trees are thriving and healthy, people come together in the the allotments and the garden is a quiet and restorative place for everyone to enjoy. To forgo all this now for financial gain (and presumably yet more detached new-build houses) would be destructive and upsetting for so many people. Instead why not convert the attractive hospital buildings into sustainable housing and flats - surrounded by an orchard and gardens for all to enjoy?</p>
<p>It would be such a shame to see this local community projects closure.</p>
<p>It would be such a shame to see this local community projects closure.</p>
<p>The myriad community benefits that Sustaining Dunbar have nurtured and created at Belhaven Hospital should be protected and expanded, and encouraged to thrive. It would be appalling if all that good work were lost, rather than fostered as a great example of community-focused action.</p>
<p>The impact of losing this asset on the community, as well as the environment, needs to be considered. Many community volunteers have devoted themselves to creating this asset and the impact of closure on the local environmental volunteering resource could be very negative. It would be a waste to close this asset and surely development plans can accommodate.</p>
<p>It's a great space for the community to come together.</p>
<p>Please save this Garden for the benefit of Dunbar Community</p>
<p>This is an important resource for Dunbar</p>
<p>Fantastic project supporting the community</p>
<p>I really hope that the gardens can be saved for the community. Ironically, the many physical and mental health benefits of the gardens can save the NHS money in the long run as well as offering much to local people.</p>
<p>This is a valued space in our local area.</p>
<p>This land should keep being used as it is - in the care of the community, for the benefit of the community.</p>
<p>We must keep it in the community.</p>
<p>I would have thought that the terms of the gifting meant that the garden must remain for the benefit of the local community</p>

At some point the decision makers of this county must stop pandering to the whims of developers and sustain community assets for the benefit of the local population.
It's a central part of the community and a really valuable place for many local people
Many people benefit in so many ways (contact with others, learning new skills, fruits of their labours fresh air exercise) from this wonderful community asset. We need to retain green spaces and not concrete over our environment which is detrimental to our planet. The responsible act would be to retain this valuable community asset. Please do the right/moral thing for the good of the local community and our planet.
The community garden is an excellent part of living in Dunbar and we intend to use it regularly once our son is a little older.
This is an amazing place for nature and people. It is precious to Dunbar.
My children love visiting the garden with their grandparents so I strongly support the idea of community ownership to continue this great project.
Great space to share knowledge and get people together. This space contributes to the volunteers' mental health and they organize activities that are very beneficial for the community and specially for the kids to learn and appreciate growing food and caring for nature. Me and my kids have benefited from helping and enjoying the space.
Its a fabulous facility to encourage good health and well-being in the community.
A much valued place in the community where people can participate in and enjoy the environment.
It's a beautiful space. It brings people together. Community is so important for mental health and being in nature. We need to keep the garden!
Much needed garden space.
Dunbar must retain this crucial outdoor therapeutic space.
An important space for our community and children to learn about food cultivation and sustainability whilst promoting well-being and mental wellness. There is an obscene lack of allotment opportunities in East Lothian and removing this vital community hub would be hugely disappointing.
It is an essential space for both the mental well-being and learning life skills.
It would be a wonderful thing if community ownership could come to pass. Thank you for the initiative!
It's such a wonderful community resource and would be terrible if it were lost
Would be great to keep
This is a valuable community project for Dunbar
It would be a devastating and incredibly wasteful decision for the community gardens to close, and a huge loss to the community.
Very important green space, great example of community effort
The community garden is such a nice space and community as i volunteered there for a little while and loved it.
The Garden plays a major part in our community life and adds to our green therapy options for those with mental health challenges
A community asset should remain as such.
Social space not more housing.
It's a real asset to the community. Any loss of this scale will have detrimental effects to the community.
100% against this site being used for housing etc and should remain and be supported as a community garden and all the associated projects and people that it benefits.
Too much greenspace being used for housing means the need for this is greater than ever
This is a much needed space for the sake of mental wellbeing not to be taken away to provide more housing no one can afford
Green space and growing space is essential for good health. This garden should remain a community asset.

Save our free spaces.

Why is ELC so intent on taking every space we have for housing
As it has done nothing for Dunbar or the ELC finances .
The people that created the gardens done a great job
We need more of this.

We need to keep these special green spaces in our towns and villages

This is an essential community endeavour.

It's a wonderful space. Long may it remain!

It's an important community asset for Dunbar, should be used for all ages and would be good too cross links with local schools for outdoor education purposes

Sounds great!

The community garden is an excellent asset to the wider Dunbar community. It would be fantastic if it's future was no longer in question and the people who run the garden for the benefit of the whole community could continue their work.

I'm assuming the deeds are legally binding and the land can be kept as an agricultural and social space for the community. If this is at risk though, I wholeheartedly support the land be kept in the hands of the community with the Belhaven community garden. It is a vital space, and given the trainline, 1 x older estate and 2 x extensive new build estates with zero amenities surround it on all sides I sincerely hope it can remain the oasis that it is. It is loved and well used and in walking distance for many.

I had the opportunity to visit and have a tour of this wonderful community asset. There is so much brilliant work going on here which benefits so many people. It's a real sanctuary to many.

The way ELC and the planning dept are going, there will soon be no green spaces left so this has to be saved surely

These open green spaces that give back to the community in untold ways should be embraced and protected for future generations of humans, and wildlife!

It's a lovely place! Very relaxing and therapeutic.

Green space is needed considering the amount of houses been/being built around the hospital area. So much space/habitat LOST FOREVER. We need to keep the community garden.

It's a great part of our community.

This is greenspace that is productive and area that provides a quiet and therapeutic location for many of the most vulnerable in the local community.

Dunbar has already lost even green-land & quality agricultural land to developers, these spaces provide a sanctuary for the community, giving socially, mentally and physically. This community asset must be kept for the People.

If it was gifted for a purpose, how can that be changed??

Gardens are splendid meeting places

These spaces should be protected for the community

A community garden is beneficial to all health wise for everyone in East Lothian.

This is very important for the community wellbeing

Community ownership is the common sense outcome to continue the benefits of the community garden.

Absolutely essential space for community and biodiversity to thrive and be.

It's very important for the community to keep this garden going. The benefits of it far out weigh building on this bit of land by developers

It's a therapeutic space and I have found it really helps my anxiety to go there.

We are in a biodiversity crisis

The community garden going would be a disgraceful terrible loss to Dunbar. Any prospective developers should surely have the sense to preserve it- having this green haven on one's doorstep is an excellent selling point for a new build house.

<p>In the future as it is already it will be</p> <p>A Therapeutic Space—for peace and relaxation, for staff, patients, visitors and local people.</p> <p>A Growing Space—for herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetables, for anyone who wants to come together with others in a supportive, sharing environment.</p> <p>A Learning Space—for sharing practical food growing and regenerative land-care skills, for all ages and abilities.</p> <p>A Biodiverse Space -for developing the range and variety of habitats so as to enhance the number and variety of species in the garden and its soil</p> <p>The ongoing development of East Lothian means that green havens such as this are disappearing and cannot be replaced once they have gone. Please allow those who want to take responsibility for them to do so.</p>
<p>I believe communities need to own green spaces to save them for humans and wildlife as these areas would be destroyed for housing.</p>
<p>This is such a valuable space for the people of Dunbar as it is, and has so much future potential to be an outdoors community hub.</p>
<p>It was gifted to the community therefore it remains with the community</p>
<p>It would be awful for this area to be turned into yet more housing. It's an important space for the community.</p>
<p>This is a wonderful resource for the local community and visitors. It is also an exemplar of good practice to other communities across East Lothian as part of the East Lothian Climate Action Network - inspiring others to connect & volunteer to support local food growing, biodiversity and the benefits of time in nature. Too many of our urban greenspaces are threatened by development already. This one is precious, not just in Dunbar but to a wider community too. Please allow it to continue 🙏</p>
<p>It is a therapeutic area and as mental ill health is rising, we need it more and more.</p>
<p>Such a fabulous community asset - benefits reach far beyond just gardening. Creates social cohesion, opportunities to learn, prevents loneliness and promotes good mental health - and physical health too, working outdoors.</p>
<p>They've been working on it for years and it's now both beautiful and useful. They deserve to keep it for the community</p>
<p>Little bit of paradise to be protected.</p>
<p>I was brought up in the tree scheme. When I was young, the houses in Elm Street and Pine Street had large vegetable gardens, now all grassed over. Many young people are growing up with no experience of growing their own, so the community garden at Belhaven is invaluable , particularly if it is community owned, as it will foster a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. Until two years ago, I had close ties with the area as my mother had lived in Pine Street for 65 years. I still have friends and family in the area.</p>
<p>Belhaven Community Garden is a peaceful haven. I have been very lucky to have been involved in working in the garden through the years - with Isobel and our DGS students working on their John Muir Award and Rural Skills Course. Also, doing John Muir Award with Nichola and volunteering alongside with our young people and Sustaining Dunbar staff - Carey and Naomi on Belhaven Buddies. Wonderful opportunities for all to learn skills for life, community engagement and enhance their physical/mental health and wellbeing. We have been very fortunate to have such an amazing resource...please let Sustaining Dunbar keep it!</p>
<p>An example of excellence in society - this is what builds healthy communities and societies</p>
<p>It a wonderful community asset. Dunbar is literally surrounded by new build construction - the town needs more than just a few more executive houses . . it needs places for people to sustain a community.</p>
<p>This is such a valuable asset to the community and must stay part of it</p>

Green spaces are precious for communities , and have a wealth of core benefits to society and the environment, as we all found out during Covid lockdowns. Once lost to concrete they are gone. I support Belhaven Garden being kept in the care of the community.
A great asset to the town & local people
Great asset for the community of Dunbar
It's important that spaces like this remain in yhe community.
Absolute travesty if all the gardens go supports so many folks mental wellbeing as well as groups like brownies, scouts etc
Great space to use with children and young people with ASN.
This is a precious local green space in an area where green space is being lost due to development. More and more children and community groups will benefit as Dunbar grows
It's a really important space
Great for the community and building relationships, volunteering is wonderful for self esteem.
It's even more important to preserve the green spaces in Dunbar.
Valuable space, for many communities groups and the environment
Wonderful space for the whole community
As a ton grows it is very short sighted to get rid of green spaces between the housing. These help keep people connected and healthy, leading to more people wanting to be in the area, increasing the economy and non-monitory wealth.
It's a wonderful place I would love to see stay and maintained for the community
Indispensable for the community...
The community gardens are such a valuable resource, they must continue for the benefit of all.
Valuable community asset - must be retained for future generations
we need more communal space where people can take advantage of the beauty, charm and tranquillity
The community garden is a wonderful asset already used by various groups and should continue
I love being taken around the gardens by my daughter. It's a wonderful place
The Community Garden is a wonderful example of a space that Dunbar residents can be proud of. It has been a wonderful addition to the town, and provides different things for different people, and it typifies the type of community-run schemes that are a core part of Dunbar's identity and a reason why it is such a thriving and desirable place to live.
Community garden is in keeping with the spirit in which the land was gifted
After establishing this project, to rip the legs from it, is not acceptable. Furthermore, I hope that sight of the former hospital does not become a building site. I do not want faceless bureaucrats to decide what happens with the gardens and the hospital.
Would not object to closure if the land was still used for public good and enjoyment and the trees and biodiversity were protected. Would also be behind further development of land eg using gardening space as part of green prescriptions, volunteering and other wellness or extending gardens to allotments and community space.
I fully support this proposal.
Our children have had many fantastic experiences in the garden with their local scouting and Girlguiding groups. We would love to see these opportunities continue for many more local children.
Makes a vital contribution to good growing in the area, where allotment provision is limited. With completion of housing to the south of railway, it is potentially more accessible to a greater number of residents.
This is such an important green space for the community, my children have benefitted from visiting and learning about plants and growing food with Cubs and Beavers

I have contacts in NHS Lothian Sustainability Team so I will reach out to advocate for them to hand over the land to the community!
Projects like this are an important part of a community, for many different reasons.
This is a great community asset which benefits community wellbeing, environment and nature
It is so important to keep the community garden
Green spaces and nature are vital for good mental and physical health.
So lucky to have such a special place in dunbar
The Community Garden has been established as an asset for the people of Dunbar, benefitting their health and wellbeing, and should be protected.
It's a community meeting place, a sharing of gardening ideas and a haven for those who would otherwise be stuck lonely at home to get out and meet and talk to others
A valuable asset to our community bringing people together.
Brings people together enjoying community spirit. Good place to improve wellbeing & mental health.
Should very much be kept in the hands of the community, who diligently and carefully look after it. It is a disgrace to even consider 'disposing' of the site and very short sighted.
The proposal is entirely in keeping with the ethos implicit in the original transfer of the land from the Lochend Estate.
I leave in east Linton but spend a fair bit of time in Dunbar and really enjoy the garden space
Community gardens are a wonderful way to promote physical and mental health
Locals love this space
Important place for community which is thriving and growing in interest and support. Even more essential to maintain with the closing down of shops on the high street and threats of further building on surrounding areas, shrinking Dunbar's green spaces and community areas more and more.
Declining green spaces to walk in Dunbar
Please save the park.
This is a very unique and valued space for the local community and one that is particularly suited to be transferred into community responsibility.
This is a vital space that I believe needs to be kept going.
It is an important site and a huge loss for many if passed on. We don't need any more new houses, we do need places that support health and wellbeing. This one exists already.
It is vital that areas such as the community garden are protected as they provide a space for people to meet, chat and relax. All which have a beneficial impact on peoples well being.
Please save this local asset
Extremely valuable, on many levels, to the local community. Please save this space.
This is such an important space for many in the local community and it would be a sad loss
Whether or not it stands close to a hospital the health and wellbeing benefits of the community garden will be a benefit to the NHS.
It should be maintained for the public's interest as intended when first gifted.
Dunbar needs ALL its open spaces, especially those where people are growing things!
This is such a good community resource - it needs to be kept as a growing space.
The gardens were gifted to the community and there they should remain
The community garden is a vital resource to the community that supports intergenerational wellbeing, nature and climate action. I live in Berwickshire but work in Dunbar and have seen the positive impact the garden has made.

One of my friends with early onset dementia depended on visits to soak up all the garden delights the space provided. From watching others garden to sitting and enjoying the sunshine. It was a great consolation to her that has no price.

It's a much needed community resource.

You were all so kind helping with my research.

This is important greenspace with multiple benefits for the community.

I am very invested in the garden. It's been a great place to be. It's a diverse array of habitats including some walnut trees which are showing how nut growing is possible in Scotland.

In today's 'climate' assets like these are needed more than ever.

We need community growing spaces to grow people as well as food

This place is a heart of the community. I am a regular visitor to Dunbar and appreciate the need in changing and divisive times to create and maintain public spaces for creative communication and activity.

The garden remains the lungs of the area which is rapidly being built over. Access should remain open to the community, benefits are numerous including physical exercise and mental health.

Disgraceful that the Council are not investing to retain a cottage hospital. Furthermore then to attempt to sell off the community garden is a further affront. This garden should be gifted to the community gardeners and protected from greedy developers

We need more green spaces to be retained . Too many new houses being allowed in Dunbar , green space being gobbled up wholesale !

It's a useful local resource

Such an amazing resource created by the community for the community.

It is a a great outdoor space and is an asset to the community. Not just another opportunity to build over, with expensive non social housing

Look at what cci langloch farm have done in lanark, contact kew Gardens for their community programmes oh and the Eden project. More local is watch us grow and friends of palacerigg at Cumbernauld. The Orchard Project may be able to offer support and Training. Next door nature Scottish Wildlife Trust recently did a training project in your area. Both of these syllabus covered how to support projects, funding, and manage spaces. The lottery have a team that can help you formulate strategies to apply for funding and community buy out

it's a fantastic space that really been nurtured over that last few years as an example of how to do a community garden..please don't take this away from East Lothian

This is a vital community resource that should not be sold for private use.

Good for the community

This is a valuable community resource

To lose this space would be devastating for Dunbar

The garden is a valuable asset within the community.

Dunbar is growing and communal green spaces shrinking.

The amount of people with anxiety and similar conditions has grown so large services can't cope and waiting lists for help to good wellbeing is long.

People especially children are becoming further removed from nature and essential skills lost as schools don't teach woodwork, cooking or growing anymore.

This space could be beneficial on so many levels it's a disgrace that it would be torn away.

Community spirit and participation needs encouraging.

I have been frequently and regularly supported in my long term chronic mental health challenges by the times I have been able to spend at the garden over the last 5 years since I moved to the area and I personally know many others who have also. It is an enormous and unique asset to the local community in so many ways. It must be saved.

An amazing community asset that should be maintained for mental, social and physical benefits of the dunbar community across all ages.

It's essential to save a green space like this with all of the many social and environmental benefits and services it provides

Hello! I work as a gardener locally and have a familial connection to this garden. My great grandfather was the groundskeeper for the site and lived in the gatehouse at the entrance of the hospital grounds where my grandfather was born and grew up. I would like to see the gardens at the hospital remain an active growing space for the local community at a time when resources such as these are dwindling.

Precious community space offering a wealth of physical and mental health benefits

BCG is a vital asset to the community

I think it's what John Muir would have wanted.

It's a wonderful space for our children to learn how to nurture the environment. Such an asset to Dunbar.

This space is so benifitial to me and my family

Save Belhaven Community Garden.

It's vital as a community space

Lovely place, need to keep it

Community ownership will allow the very valuable work of the Community garden to continue to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community and the environment. Very much in line with the original specification of the donors of the site which surely is a legal requirement to honour. The whole hospital site was gifted to enhance public health.

We use the garden with our children to practice home learning, encourage wellbeing, faciliataete mindfulness and learn about sustaining life. It would be such a loss.

Preserving spaces for wilderness and better mental health is key (I am an NHS Lothian hospital clinician who wishes to celebrate the role of nature in relation to health)

I fully support this transfer of land to community ownership. Once it's developed - its gone forever and protecting these spaces is so important to our local area from a biodiversity and ecological point. So much of Dunbar and Belhaven has been developed for property and business but it is essential to keep spaces like this for the future. We shouldn't forget one of our most famous residents was John Muir - shouldn't we celebrate and do more to protect the very area he was born!

What a fantastic local space for local people. Healthy living is a priority for all and this amenity supports The Scottish Government's Food Growing Strategy.

Useful, both to people and nature!

It's an excellent project. Helping the local community to work together on growing their own food. The biodiversity is encouraged by the organic flowers and herbs in the garden. It's a tranquil place good for mental health.

Spaces like these are so important for the community is so many ways from supporting people's health, building social connections, and making space for biodiversity. Belhaven Garden is an important inspiration for other communities.

All power to those striving to make a difference through community empowerment.

This is a beautiful spot that I visit everyday. It is a huge asset to our community