

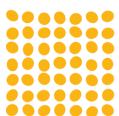


Business Plan

Belhaven Community Garden

Sustaining Dunbar

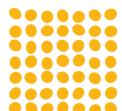
V3 May 2025



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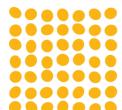
1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Background

This business plan covers the Community Asset Transfer and development of Belhaven Community Garden.

Belhaven Community Garden (BCG) is a Sustaining Dunbar project which has transformed an area of unused land at Belhaven Hospital, Dunbar, into gardens where local residents, community groups, NHS staff and patients can grow together.

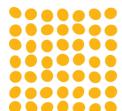
We first reached agreement for use of the land in 2012, with full support and cooperation of NHS Lothian in recognition of the preventative health benefits a community garden would bring. Since then, BCG has been transformed into a beautiful and productive



green space – a hub for learning, for social connection and for wellbeing, and as a source of locally grown, fresh and healthy food for the community.

BCG now provides:

- A Therapeutic Space - for peace and relaxation, for local people and visitors.
- A Growing Space - for herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetables, for anyone who wants to come together with others in a supportive, sharing environment.
- A Learning Space - for sharing practical food growing and regenerative land-care skills, for all ages and abilities.
- 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.



The future of this vital green space is under threat.

Belhaven Hospital has been closed, and the site (including BCG) is designated as ‘on the disposal list’ by the NHS Estates Department. If the site was to be sold on the open market, the likelihood is that it would be developed for housing, and Belhaven Community Garden would be lost.

We are seeking to bring BCG into community ownership to secure the future of this much loved space and continue to support public health and the wellbeing of the community we serve. Tenure is a key issue. Without security of tenure it has been challenging to apply for funding for capital infrastructure improvements or long term staff. We have sustained the garden for 13 years without this tenure, but community ownership will be a game changer.

1.2 Original drivers

Ultimately we want to take BCG into community ownership to save this green space which would otherwise be lost to development.

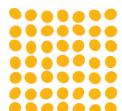
We intend to continue and build on the activities and social impact that the project already provides. This will include:

- building on the work that we have already started to develop a **healthy, diverse natural ecosystem and greenspace** that supports the biodiversity and wellbeing of our community and builds resilience to climate change.
- creating new opportunities for a wide range of people to develop **general employability skills** and **train in specific skills** for regenerative land management and organic food growing in the heart of our community, accessible by active travel.
- helping people to develop a **deeper connection to nature** and an understanding of nature’s closed loop cycles -encouraging people to value the development of a truly circular, sharing economy.
- enabling more opportunities for healthy, outdoor, physical activity that enhances **physical health and mental wellbeing**, encourages social interaction between diverse participants, provides space for local food growing and supports community resilience.

Community ownership can bring additional benefits which we want to realise.

Community ownership will enable us to **make improvements to infrastructure** at the site. For example, over the last two years we have had to operate without access to water or toilet facilities due to issues with the hospital water supply. We cannot install a water supply under the existing short term agreement with NHS Lothian.

Community ownership will also provide **security of tenure to support fundraising**. BCG is not reliant on revenue funding (and we will continue this approach), but we see potential to fundraise for a staff member to establish more structured therapeutic gardening opportunities and social prescribing links with local GP practices.



More generally, community ownership **delivers on the longstanding aspirations of the community** for the future of Belhaven Community Garden to be secured: we set out the evidence for this in section 2 below.

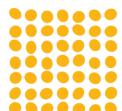
1.3 Our organisation

Sustaining Dunbar is a Community Development Trust for the Dunbar and East Linton Ward of East Lothian. We are a Company Limited by Guarantee (SC351910) with charitable status (SC040106). Membership of the charity is open to people in the Dunbar and East Linton Council Electoral Ward.

We believe local, community-led action that values and taps into local knowledge and experience has a key role to play in building a future in which everyone in our community can thrive within a flourishing natural environment.

Our projects range from the Dunbar Community Heat Team, which supports people in reducing energy bills; to the Pledgehog project – a hugely popular way of encouraging people to create more wildlife friendly gardens and wildlife corridors.

We work closely with other groups, including through local community planning structures, and helped to establish the East Lothian Climate Action Network.



1.4 The BCG site

BCG is around 2.24 acres, within the Belhaven Hospital grounds. Its boundaries are the hospital to the West, private housing to the North, recreational parkland to the East, and the east coast mainline railway to the south.

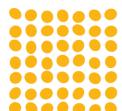
This image from the Graham + Sibbald LLP valuation dated 1 January 2025 shows BCG outlined in red within the wider hospital site:



There is pedestrian access from Pine Street at the north and through the current hospital grounds. There is also limited vehicular access from Beveridge Row, close to the railway underpass.

BCG is now a thriving community garden containing 21 raised beds, 9 communal field plots, 15 individual field plots, 1 polytunnel, 2 soft fruit patches, an orchard with 143 fruiting trees, and a nuttery with 6 walnuts and many hazelnut trees along with a wildflower meadow, hedgerows and a variety of other habitats.

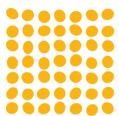
The diagram below shows the layout of the site. The current sensory garden is outside the boundary of the land we intend to take on, but we will retain the area with the polytunnel:





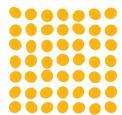
The market value of the site varies significantly depending on its use:

- Market Value – Residual on the Special Assumption Planning Consent in place for 30 family homes, with no restrictive access issues to the site: £625,000
- Market Value – No Planning Consent in place but Zoned within the Local Plan for Housing Allocation, with no restrictive access issues to the site: £470,000
- Market Value – existing use, assuming restrictions to access would prevent future development of the site for commercial or residential purposes: £45,000



In the 2018 Local Development Plan the land has a designation of 40 housing units, although the valuation notes that this may be “overoptimistic” given site access and constraints.

Current planning permission for the land is for a community garden and we strongly believe that the site should be rezoned as such in the next Local Development Plan – due to be adopted in 2026.



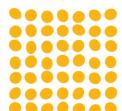
1.5 How this Business Plan was developed

This business plan is based on the extensive consultations, research, and evidence of need gathered by the Steering Group over recent years.

It is also informed by consultations with our volunteers on aspirations of the future of the Garden: group discussions to gather this information took place in June 2024.

In 2025 we appointed consultants through Stage 1 of the Scottish Land Fund to support with the business planning. Their work has included:

- Review of background documentation.
- Detailed review of national and local policy to map out the contribution BCG makes.
- Review of demographics and statistics for Dunbar and East Linton.
- Community survey – which received 346 responses. This builds on our 2024 survey which received 928 responses, and our 2024 petition which received 485 signatures.
- Skills audit and governance survey to assess organisational capacity.



2. Summary of Research

2.1 About the community

This provides important context on the need for BCG and services we provide.

The most extensive research on the nature of the community is the **Dunbar and West Barns Local Place Plan 2025 – 2035**. The Place Plan involved consultations over a 15 month period: Over 800 people of all ages responded to the initial questionnaire, and a further 300 engaged with subsequent Question and Answer sessions.

Our area of benefit extends wider to the whole of Electoral Ward 6, but around 70% plus of the population we serve lives in the Place Plan area.

The sections below focus on the Place Plan, but we included some additional statistics where relevant.

A full demographics review is included in Appendix 1.1.

Overview:

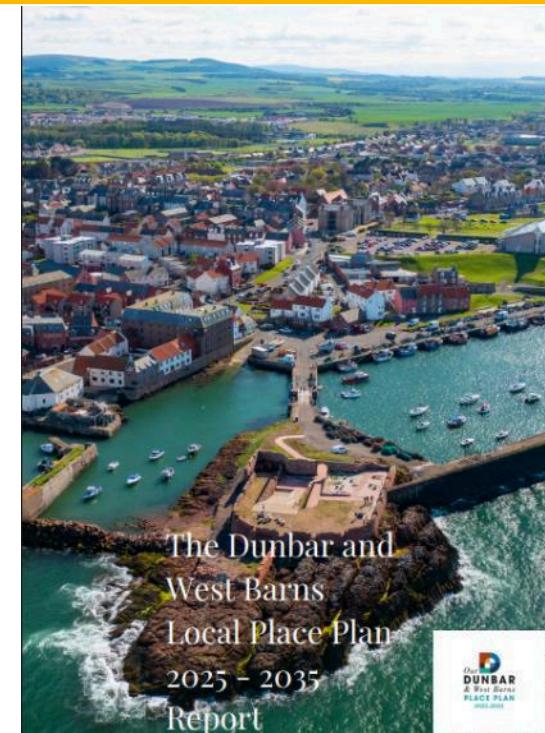
Dunbar and West Barns sit at the eastern-most part of East Lothian.

Until recently the population had grown steadily, with new housing developments located within striking distance of the town and village centre amenities. The area was largely seen as well serviced and benefitting from a rural position alongside the stunning coastline, with good community facilities.

However population growth has sharply increased: from around 7,500 in 2001 to 11,000 in 2021 - with 1781 new family homes and a further 413 homes still to be built. **This amounts to a population increase of 60%.**

2018 population projections for Ward 6 show continued growth – with a 16.8% increase to 17,243 projected by 2028. This is more than double the projected increase for East Lothian over this period (7.2%).

The Place Plan consultations found strong feedback that new homes and the **expanding population has affected the quality of life experienced here**. A common and strongly felt theme was “no more large house building”, “no more loss of green space” and “better facilities and services”.



The Plan notes that incoming residents to the area have brought new energy and vitality to the town. Many come as young families and through their children forge new networks, but still have links with other places. This dynamic differs from traditional patterns of community here. BCG therefore has a role to play in creating new connections between longstanding and new residents: delivering services for children and their families is one means of achieving this.

Place Plan Themes:

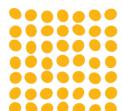
The Plan is structured under 5 themes – each of which is relevant to BCG:

1. Green Space and Active Travel

There is great ambition from the community to protect existing green spaces but these are under threat from further development.

The Plan states that: “one of the strongest messages we received in the survey was to protect green space and we should guard against further development of these in existing neighbourhoods”.

Belhaven Community Garden is specifically mentioned as an area used by the community that needs special attention: to “ensure it is retained as a therapeutic space for education, training, community connection, mental health and supporting biodiversity”.





2. Housing

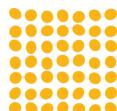
While there has been extensive housebuilding, most of these have been prime market family homes and there is unmet demand for affordable, smaller and accessible units.

There is an aspiration for suitable housing for young people to stay and work in the area, for older people to downsize but stay in the community, for people with additional needs, and for those on low incomes.

The Plan states however that “We have looked at all the available green space land in the town centre as options for the creation of new small and affordable units but feel this is a last resort as the protection of green space within the town centre takes priority”.

3. Health and Wellbeing

The Plan states that due to population growth there is pressure on all health services: in particular care for older people, and little support for some areas including mental health. There is also a need for more wellbeing-based activities not focussed on sports (which BCG offers).



This theme also refers to the Belhaven Hospital site: planning for the site's future must “*include a community garden which has already been shown to have such a positive impact on people's wellbeing*”.

NB – statistics for Ward 6 show that there is currently a higher proportion of children aged 0-15 in the Ward than the East Lothian and Scotland averages; and a higher proportion of people over 65. The proportion of the working age population and those aged 0-15 is projected to reduce, and the proportion of people aged 65+ will increase. **NHS Lothian has identified that this may lead to more pressure on health and social care services; as well as an increase in caring responsibilities.** We use BCG to respond to this need by providing services for older people, carers, and high school pupils considering a career in care.

Other important context relating to health & wellbeing is:

- Life expectancy varies across the Ward: by 3 years for females and 2.6 years for males. There is therefore a role for BCG in tackling these health inequalities.
- Only 21% of people in East Lothian get the recommended amount of daily fruits and vegetables: BCG can help to promote healthy and sustainable food to the community.
- 56% of people in East Lothian report getting less than the recommended amount of physical activity. BCG helps to address this: the NHS Lothian Green Health Programme Strategy notes the impact of nature exposure on physical activity behaviour change.

4. Transport and sustainability

Proposals relate to a need for more parking, better infrastructure for walking, cycling and wheeling, more electric charging points, and alleviating congestion on the A1. The most directly relevant to BCG is around active travel. The plan notes that “*we are fortunate that so many of young people can access education by foot or wheel*” – one of the main routes is through BCG.

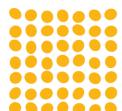
5. Economy and tourism

Proposals relate to the town centre, creation of more business units and more visitor B&B accommodation. The most relevant to BCG relates to skills development: The plan commends the work of The Ridge (one of our partners) and states that “*skills development is an important consideration to encourage more people to both live and work within the local area*”. We will continue to work the Dunbar Grammar School and the Ridge to provide training opportunities.

6. Response to Climate Change

Protecting green spaces (and improving biodiversity) is identified as a priority.

The consultations also showed that the community has the awareness and appetite to embrace many of the measures that can enable people and environment here to thrive, in light of the changing climate.

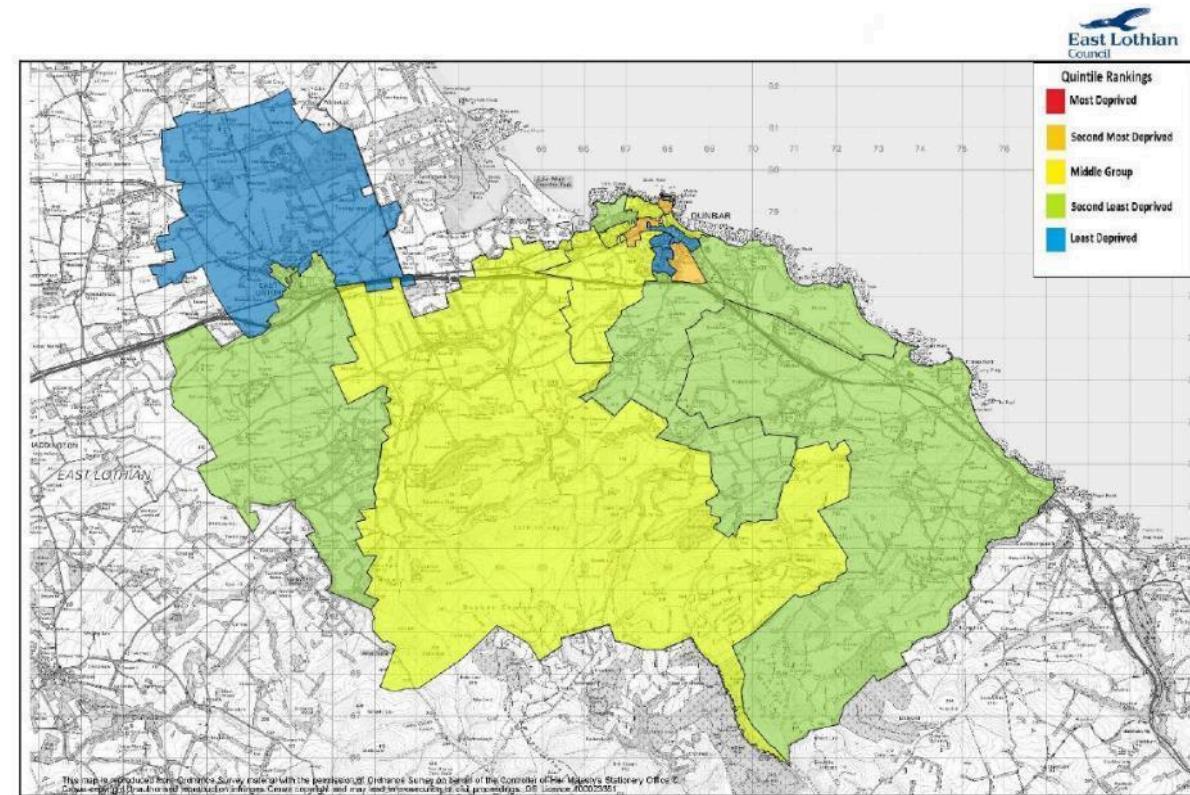


Deprivation:

Whilst not specifically addressed in the Place Plan, levels of deprivation have been considered as part of the demographics review at Appendix 1.1.

None of the data zones in the Dunbar & East Linton ward are in the 20% most deprived – albeit four are in the most deprived in relation to the access to services domain. SIMD is area based however, and individuals within the area may still face deprivation. There is evidence that people in the area are struggling with poverty, and in particular, food and fuel poverty:

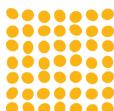
- NHS Lothian has identified that as of June 2024, 720 children and young people under 16 in the Dunbar & East Linton ward were benefitting from Scottish Child Payments, which accounts for 23% of children in the ward.
- There was a 114% increase in referrals to the East Lothian Foodbank (308 to 702 people) between 2020 and 2023. There was a 137% increase in the number of children referred (106 to 251).



The map shows levels of deprivation across the local authority area:

2.2 Evidence of support for community ownership

The Place Plan sets out that protection and retention of Belhaven Community Garden was an important priority emerging from their consultations. While there is a need for affordable housing and few sites for this, the protection of green space is a higher priority.



We have also carried out extensive consultations over 2024 and 2025 to understand whether the community across Ward 6 supports community ownership of Belhaven Community Garden.

2024 consultations

Survey and petition:

A survey was carried out over summer/autumn 2024 – asking the community whether they supported community ownership of Belhaven Community Garden.

The survey was widely promoted on social media and Dunbar Online, an article in the Courier, through door to door collection of petition signatures, a stall on the High Street, and posters/leaflets. Consultations specifically included Ash Grove (the street bordering the Garden) to ensure that the views of immediate neighbours were considered.

928 people responded: Yes - I support community ownership.

699 respondents are in the EH42 postcode area (Dunbar). 37 respondents are in the EH40 postcode area (East Linton): so 79% of respondents are from the community of benefit (the Dunbar and East Linton Electoral Ward).

Some open comments:

This is a vital asset for our community

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

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.

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

A separate petition was circulated between June – October, asking “Do you support taking the site of Belhaven Community Garden into community ownership to protect this asset for the benefit of the community in the longer term?”

485 signatures were gathered, in support of community ownership.



To whom it may concern

BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN REQUEST FOR ASSET TRANSFER TO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Dunbar Community Council has actively supported the work of Belhaven Community Garden since its inception in 2012. In that time, it has developed from a small sensory garden, for all to enjoy, to the established community garden it is today with planting of all types, largely focused on food production.

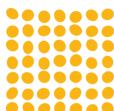
The team of volunteers and garden users reaches every socio-economic and age grouping and the benefits to all in respect of mental and physical wellbeing are patent.

Dunbar Community Council fully supports the application for a community asset transfer of the garden grounds to community ownership.



Pippa Swan
Chair
Dunbar Community Council

10th September 2024



Letters of support:

22 letters of support were received from local organisations supportive of the Garden being taken into community ownership. This includes:

- Schools: Dunbar Grammar School, Dunbar Primary School (which includes the Nursery), West Barns Primary School.
- Community Planning and Community Councils: Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership; Dunpender Community Council, West Barns Community Council, Dunbar Community Council.
- Local third sector groups: The Community Carrot CBS, the Ridge CIC, Dunbar Shed, Wilder Outdoor Education CIC, Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project, Dunbar Dementia Network SCIO, East Lothian Horizon Community Refugee Sponsorship,
- Networks /partnerships: East Lothian Climate Hub, Dunbar Medical Center, Dunbar and East Linton Health and Wellbeing Group.

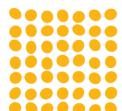
Letters of support have also been received from Craig Hoy MSP, Martin Whitfield MSP, Paul McLennan MSP and local councillor Donna Collins. Cllr Lyn Jardine also indicated support in her 'Vision for Belhaven' report. All letters are included in Appendix 17 of the application.

2025 survey

We carried out a further community survey in February 2025, to consult in more depth on the activities local people wanted to take part in at BCG. The full survey analysis is at Appendix 2. The survey attracted 346 responses.

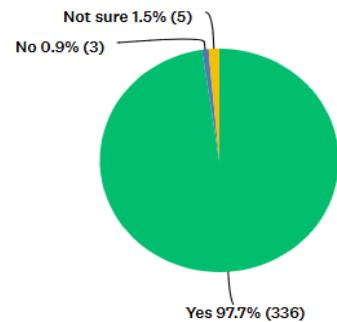
Support for community ownership:

There was almost universal support for community ownership – consistent with the findings of previous consultation exercises. 98% of respondents were in favour.



Overall, and if a viable future can be found for it, do you support the community purchase of the land from the NHS?

Answered: 344 Skipped: 2



Impact of community ownership:

Respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with the following statements: 'Developing the land into productive community space will...'. The majority of respondents strongly agreed with all statements:

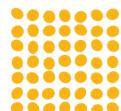
- Strengthen the community and bring people together: 87% strongly agreed; 13% agreed.
- Develop health and well-being: 85% strongly agreed; 15% agreed
- Get people more involved in their community: 79% strongly agreed; 21% agreed
- Enhance the economic resilience of the community: 55% strongly agreed; 33% agreed. 12% neither agree nor disagree.

Negative consequences from community ownership

The survey also asked, "If you are not supportive of community ownership of the garden, please let us know why". This was to determine whether there are any negative consequences from community ownership of the site (and how those could be mitigated).

Only 6 comments were received, of which 5 were actually supportive of community ownership.

The only comment which was not supportive of community ownership was "I think housing is a higher priority in terms of community need (especially affordable housing for rent)". A larger number of comments were received elsewhere in the survey opposing more development or housebuilding.



This is consistent with the Local Place Plan consultations described above – there is a need for affordable housing, but overall, the community's view is that protecting remaining green spaces (and particularly Belhaven Community Garden) is a higher priority.

2.3 Support and market demand

The 2025 survey provided respondents with a list of existing and proposed services at BCG. They were given options to select whether they (1) support the service and would use it themselves; (2) support but would not use it themselves; (2) do not support the service; and (4) are not sure.

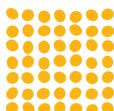
The list of services was compiled following consultation with BCG volunteers on what they would like to see happen at the site.

Each of the suggested ideas was supported by more than 90% of survey respondents. Less than 2% were opposed to any of the suggestions.

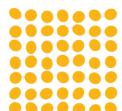
The services are set out under the relevant part of the Garden's Mission: a Therapeutic Space; Growing Space; Learning Space; and Biodiverse Space. We have included some additional evidence/statistics where relevant:

A Therapeutic Space

Service	Evidence of support / demand
Volunteering (e.g. upkeep of the garden, gardening for wellbeing sessions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47% (160 people) support this and would take part. 49% support although they would not take part themselves. 40 additional survey comments noting the benefits of volunteering, including to wellbeing and confidence. Existing volunteering numbers between March 2023 and March 2024 were 552 volunteers: 1,104 volunteer on site hours. The Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership's Area Plan includes an action to support more social contact and friendship to support health. This is evidence of need.
Therapeutic gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35% (119 people) support this and would take part. 28% support although they would not take part themselves. 18 additional comments were received noting the benefits to physical and mental health. Letter of support from East Lothian Horizons – this charity has referred two refugee families to BCG: therapeutic gardening has helped reduce their social isolation and learn new skills.



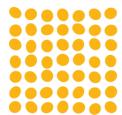
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letter of support from Dunbar Medical Centre indicating interest in social prescribing. ● The 2023 NHS Lothian Public Health Survey results for East Lothian found 12% of respondents reported low life satisfaction; 9% reported feeling lonely most of the time, 30% some of the time; and 15% experience low mental wellbeing. The NHS Lothian Green Health Programme Strategy sets out that exposure to natural environments supports positive mental health outcomes. ● The Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership's Area Plan includes an action to support improved mental health for all ages, but especially young people, and recognises the contribution of BCG.
Sensory garden restful spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 70% (235 people) support this and would take part. 24% support although they would not take part themselves. ● 28 additional comments were received, noting that this is valuable to the community as a peaceful space to support positive wellbeing; but there is particular value for young people with additional needs, older people (including those with dementia) and carers. ● Letter of support from Dunbar Dementia Network SCIO notes the value of the garden as a therapeutic space for their members. ● Letters of support from the Community Carrot: provides a calming space for them to support children who are neurodivergent, growing up in foster care or have food avoidance disorder.



A Growing Space

This relates to growing herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetables; but also growing together as a community:

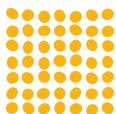
Service	Evidence of support / demand
Community growing together:	
Events such as Apple Day and Seedling Swap (i.e. centred on growing/ horticulture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was the idea with the highest number of people who would take part themselves: 77% (261 people) support this and would take part. 20% support although they would not take part themselves. 23 additional comments received, noting that previous apple days have been well received.
Community events such as bonfire night and wassailing (i.e. community events in the green space not necessarily focussed on growing).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% (239 people) support this and would take part. 20% support although they would not take part themselves. 20 additional comments received, noting that these are valuable for families, as well as those without access to their own garden. Continued population growth shows a need to support community cohesion (as per the Local Place Plan). The Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership's Area Plan includes an action to develop a more connected community with a positive attitude. This is evidence of need.
Growing herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetables:	
Allotments and growing space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33% (113 people) support this and would take part. 65% support although they would not take part themselves.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58 comments received, noting the benefits of keeping an allotment to health and wellbeing. Several noted the long waiting lists for private allotments at Thistly Cross, and there was interest in taking up allotment space or a raised bed at the Garden.
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A Learning Space

Service	Evidence of support / demand
Workshops such as pruning and bee keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69% (236 people) support this and would take part. 29% support although would not take part themselves. 22 additional comments received, noting that these are valuable in developing knowledge and learning from others. An additional survey question indicated willingness from respondents to pay for workshops – although these should be affordable and accessible to all in the community.
Outdoor cooking e.g. kids cook club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35% (119 people) support this and would take part. 63% support although would not take part themselves. 23 additional comments received, noting that these are enjoyable and help to develop life skills. There were several offers to help deliver the sessions. Letter of support from the Community Food Outreach & Communications Lead, Community Carrot: who delivers these sessions – there is nowhere else locally these can take place. Only 20.9% of people in East Lothian get the recommended amount of daily fruits and vegetables.
Tours and visits (for groups such as beavers and cubs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29% (98 people) support this and would take part. 70% support although would not take part themselves. 14 comments received noting that young people/children have enjoyed these sessions previously. Letter of support from Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project shows demand for more visits to the garden with the vulnerable young people they support. Letter of support from West Barns Primary School shows demand for more visits.



Employability and accredited training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 18% (61 people) support this and would take part. 77% support although would not take part themselves. ● 18 comments received, noting that these can benefit young people in particular. ● Letters of support from Dunbar Grammar School and the Ridge- stating support for existing work and demand for this to grow further. The Ridge notes that the Garden “has enormous value as a unique educational space”. ● 13.5% of the working age population of the Ward claimed Universal Credit in September 2024 – this is below the Scotland average of 14.8% but still shows a need for employability support.
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A Biodiverse Space

The services above contribute to enhancing habitats and improved biodiversity at BCG. There were additional comments in the survey directly relating to biodiversity, such as “*Biodiversity e.g. native wildflower pollinator meadows; perhaps a small area of woodland; a pond*”.

2.4 Overview of policy fit

We have considered in detail how BCG contributes to national and local policy and strategy. The full review is set out in Appendix 1.2.

The full contribution is significant and wide ranging: relating to community empowerment, mitigation and adaptation to climate change; food; biodiversity; and health.

In particular, BCG and community ownership is aligned with Community Wealth Building principles, which encompass many of the other policy areas.

Community Wealth Building has been adopted by the Scottish Government, but also in East Lothian through the East Lothian Community Wealth Building Charter. Signatories and supporters of the Charter include East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, and East Lothian Integration Joint Board/Health & Social Care Partnership. We contribute to these pillars within the Charter:

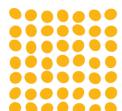
- **Land and Property:** i.e. growing social, ecological, financial and economic value that local communities gain from land and property assets. This includes community ownership.
- **Inclusive Ownership:** Developing more local and inclusive enterprises which generate community wealth – so the wealth created locally and by local people stays in those communities. Ownership of BCG by Sustaining Dunbar directly contributes – as does our support of the Community Carrot Community Benefit Society and other enterprises.



- **Climate change:** i.e. progressing meaningfully towards net zero carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. This is a ‘sixth’ pillar included in the East Lothian Charter, and includes an intention to support sustainable communities and our natural environment and bio-diversity – BCG aligns with this aim.

Appendix 1.2 should be reviewed for full details of our contribution to national and local policy.

Note that Belhaven Community Garden is specifically referred to as an exemplar in the East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy and the NHS Lothian Sustainable Development Framework and Action Plan.



3. What We Will Do

3.1 Vision and mission

Our vision sets out the long term change that we intend to make through Belhaven Community Garden.

Vision: Dunbar and East Linton will have a thriving community garden which supports good health, strong community, lifelong learning, and a diverse natural ecosystem.

Our mission sets out, at a high level, what we will do to achieve the vision. Our mission is to develop BCG as:

- **A Therapeutic Space:** for peace and relaxation, for staff, patients, visitors and local people.
- **A Growing Space:** for herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetables, for anyone who wants to come together with others in a supportive, sharing environment.
- **A Learning Space:** for sharing practical food growing and regenerative land-care skills, for all ages and abilities.
- **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.

3.2 Aims and objectives

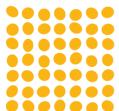
Over the period of this plan we will continue and build on the activities and benefits that the BCG already provides – the ethos and nature of this successful project will not change.

At the same time, community ownership of the site will open up new possibilities for us to expand services, reach more people, and deliver increased social impact. This section describes our planned development.

We have agreed four ‘aims’ relating to areas of change and development. These are:

1. **Take the site into community ownership.**
2. **Develop infrastructure.**
3. **Reintroduce formal training programmes.**
4. **Develop green health services.**

Under each Aim, we have agreed SMART ‘objectives’. The Gantt Chart below sets out the aims and objectives which we intend to deliver over the first 3 years of community ownership. (Year 1 is the first year of community ownership).

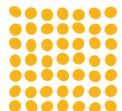


	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1. Take the site into community ownership				
a. Negotiate with NHS Lothian and submit asset transfer request.	Yellow			
b. Submit SLF Stage 2 application				
2. Develop infrastructure		Yellow		
a. Repair boundary wall				
b. Repair polytunnel and install fence				
c. Install water and utilities connections				
d. Install storage space for equipment				
e. Install composting toilet				
f. Install container office				
g. Improve path accessibility				
g. Install outdoor classroom space / shelter		Yellow		
h. Develop drop off area at the south entrance.			Yellow	
3. Reintroduce formal training programmes		Yellow		
a. Develop partnership with Dunbar Grammar School and the Ridge		Yellow		
b. Introduce new training programmes			Yellow	
4. Develop green health services	Yellow			
a. Create new sensory garden	Yellow			
b. Develop links with GP practices / mental health services		Yellow		
c. Recruit worker to support health & wellbeing services			Yellow	

Aim 1: Take the site into community ownership

Why: This is essential to secure the site and the continuation of existing services. Without community ownership, the site would be lost to development (contrary to the community's wishes). Community ownership provides security of tenure which enables us to improve the infrastructure.

What we will do: Engage with NHS Lothian and submit an asset transfer request as soon as NHS Lothian is ready to receive the same.



Aim 2: Develop infrastructure

Why: We have operated for 2 years without access to water or toilet facilities – this prevents people visiting BCG. Post community ownership we will lose access to our current tool storage at the hospital, so need an alternative store. As owners we will be responsible for the safety of the site – the boundary wall needs to be repaired to make it safe; and we need to secure the polytunnel to prevent vandalism. We also want to provide some sheltered spaces to support learning activities.

What we will do: Upon transfer of the site we will repair the boundary wall; repair the polytunnel and secure this; install utilities connections; install a container unit for equipment storage; and install a toilet. Quotes for the work have already been obtained and further planning will take place over 2025 (Year 0).

Over the course of Year 1 we will add a containerised office/canteen, to enable volunteers to warm up / enjoy hot drinks, and to support activities in poor weather. We will also improve the accessibility of our paths to support access by people with mobility issues.

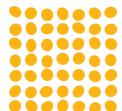
In Year 2 we will install an outdoor learning area – plans for this will be developed in collaboration with the Ridge and Dunbar Grammar School (see aim 3 below). We will also explore the possibility of a vehicle drop off at the South entrance, with disabled spaces. These are larger scale developments, so left until years 2 - 3 to allow further planning and to avoid overstretching the board and Steering Group.

Aim 3: Reintroduce formal training programmes

Why: Until 2024 BCG part-hosted the SQA accredited Rural Skills course, led by The Ridge and attracting participants from across East Lothian. The project has ended as funding for transport was cut. We want to fill this gap in provision for practical training by restarting the course for Dunbar based young people and by developing other accredited training programmes hosted at BCG.

What we will do: Over Year 1 and into Year 2 we will work with Dunbar Grammar School and The Ridge to develop and plan new accredited training programmes to be delivered at BCG. This will include discussion on the infrastructure they need (we plan to install an outdoor classroom space in Year 2, informed by their requirements).

We aim to launch accredited training programmes in Year 2. There is a longer lead-in time – this is to (1) ensure infrastructure improvements are completed; (2) to support fundraising if required; and (3) as any training programmes needs to be finalised in alignment with the academic year.



Aim 4: Develop green health services

Why: Over the course of this plan we want to develop more structured referral links with health & social care and be part of the green prescribing movement. This enables us to deliver further cost savings for NHS Lothian.

What we will do: Our current sensory garden is not included within the land to be taken into community ownership. As an initial step, we will create a new sensory garden within the site boundary.

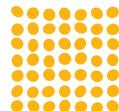
Over Years 1 and 2 we will strengthen links with the three local medical practices in order to develop more structured referral pathways. We intend to launch these in Year 3. Our assumption at this stage is that funding will be required for a worker to support vulnerable volunteers, manage referrals from the NHS; and develop new services (such as mindfulness/ yoga in the Garden). This will be planned fully over Years 1 and 2, with the intention that a worker is taken on in Year 3.

3.3 Key Activities

This section describes the specific activities and services we deliver at BCG and how they will develop when we own the site.

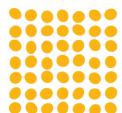
The activities are:

1. Volunteer sessions and skills shares
2. Work with adults with learning difficulties
3. Visits from local groups
4. Community events
5. Workshops
6. Equipment hire
7. Accredited training at the Garden

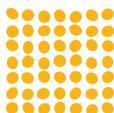


The Garden also supports several 'outreach' projects. These largely take place at other sites, but they are managed by the BCG Steering Group and rely on ongoing practical support from Garden volunteers. Without BCG as base, they could not take place:

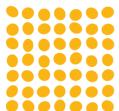
8. Beehive Garden at Dunbar Nursery School
9. Intergenerational Volunteers
10. Pledgehog Project

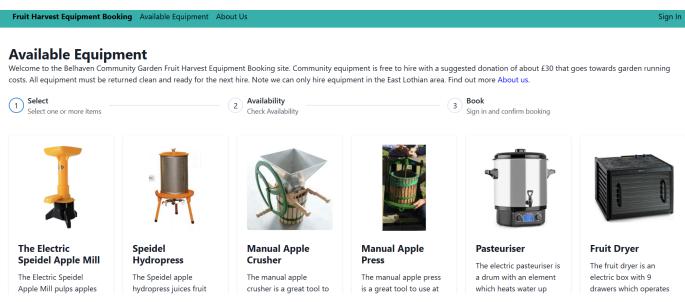


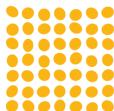
Service and description:	Future development:
<p>1. Volunteer sessions and skills shares.</p> <p>These run on Saturdays between 2-4pm. A second session runs on Wednesday afternoons during harvest time (July to October).</p> <p>We have 40 regular volunteers, with around 12-15 participants each week. Volunteers are diverse and include young people undertaking Duke of Edinburgh Awards; New Scots; and people experiencing challenges with mental health.</p> <p>Before each session, we offer skill shares for gardeners covering composting, sowing seeds, and organic growing tips.</p> <p>Sessions are sociable and involve physical activity.</p> <p>Volunteers carry out a wide range of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivate the communal growing areas all year round. • Harvest during the growing season. Volunteers take home produce; and further produce is distributed to other local initiatives. • Process compost - supporting the fertility of the soil. • Enhance habitats at the Garden, including our wildflower meadow; woodland area and hedges. <p>We also have a further 18 individual plots which are cultivated by volunteers.</p>	<p>Growth in the number of volunteers: we estimate total volunteer hours of 1664 in Year 1; 1880 in Year 2; 1896 in year 3.</p> <p>Other developments will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved planning to ensure more continuity of cropping. • Review bed layout for best soil productivity and to reduce couch grass issues. • Planting to ensure year-round supply of pollen. Reintroduce the bee school. • Create new habitats -willow bed and bog garden.
<p>2. Work with adults with learning difficulties.</p> <p>Our Green Team project brings adults with learning difficulties into BCG for light gardening and other nature based activities. They have their own allocated plot which they maintain. Activities include growing food, painting the benches and planters, mowing grass, and craft activities (indoors during winter).</p>	<p>Secure continuation funding so the service can continue.</p> <p>We want to involve more participants but will not set targets for growth – the Green Team is person centred and</p>



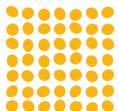
<p>Green Team breaks down social barriers, helps participants develop new interests and gives them local recognition and dignity.</p>	<p>needs to be the right fit for current and new participants.</p>
<p>3. Visits from local groups</p> <p>This has included local third sector groups supporting vulnerable people, including Dunbar Dementia Carers Support Group and Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project.</p> <p>It has also supported visits from groups working with young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Carrot Food Outreach worker delivers outdoor food and fire cooking sessions for young people at the Garden. • Beavers and Cubs: who work towards gardening badges. • West Barns Primary School. <p>Visits are arranged in discussion with the BCG Steering Group.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of group visits: 8 visits in Year 1 with an estimate of 96 participants; 9 visits in Year 2 with an estimate of 108 participants; and 10 visits in Year 3 with an estimate of 120 participants.</p> <p>We will build stronger links with a wider range of other local groups to create opportunities for visits and other collaboration e.g. Muddy Buddies, Dunbar FoodShare, Wilder Outdoor Education, Sunny Soups etc.</p>
<p>4. Community events</p> <p>We run events to draw people into BCG and to connect with each other, celebrating the natural environment and local food. Our most popular community wide events are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seedling Swap: a popular spring event in the garden. People bring surplus seedlings to swap and we hold a plant sale. • Apple Day: to celebrate the apple harvest. We offer tours of the garden, apple pressing, refreshments and activities for children. • Civic Week Events: each June. We run family friendly events at the Garden such as a wildflower hunt; “moth morning”, face painting, tours of the garden and refreshments. 	 <p>The poster for the Belhaven Community Garden Wassail & Social Seed Swap features a background image of fruit trees. At the top, it says 'BELHAVEN COMMUNITY GARDEN'. The main title 'WASSAIL & SOCIAL SEED SWAP' is in large, bold, red letters. Below that, it says '3PM SUNDAY 30TH JANUARY'. A text box in the center reads: 'Join us amongst the fruit trees for a traditional wassail song with local singers in hope for a good harvest. Followed by a bonfire social and seed swap. Please bring any spare seeds you have and snacks/refreshments as you see fit!' At the bottom, there is a logo for 'BCG' with the text 'SUSTAIN DUNBAR'.</p> <p>Increase in the number of attendees: 7 events in Year 1 with an estimate of 210 attendees total; 7 events in Year 2 with an estimate of 224 attendees total; and 7 events in Year 3 with an estimate of 245 attendees total.</p>



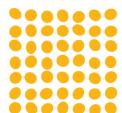
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wassailing in the orchard: an event to gather around a bonfire and sing wassailing songs. <p>These are coordinated by the Steering Group. Events rely on volunteers with enthusiasm to contribute their skills. Taking part is free of charge, though donations are accepted. Others have a fundraising element.</p>	
<h3>5. Workshops</h3> <p>Ad hoc workshops take place throughout the year, open to the public. Over the last year, workshops have covered propagation, scything, composting, bee keeping, foraging for wild herbs, ink making, wildflower ID. In the past, we have delivered art sessions at BCG, supported by a professional artist.</p> <p>These are run by the Steering Group or local people willing to contribute their expertise. We have applied for grant funding in the past to pay professionals to deliver workshops.</p> <p>Community participation is usually free, though donations are encouraged. The charging for services may need to change in the future.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of workshops: 8 workshops in Year 1 with an estimate of 96 attendees total; 9 workshops in Year 2 with an estimate of 117 attendees total; and 10 workshops in Year 3 with an estimate of 130 attendees total.</p> <p>There will be a wider range of workshops. New ideas from volunteers and the consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wellbeing focussed: Art therapy, outdoor yoga, mindfulness, Tai Chi etc. ● Biodiversity related: e.g. making bug hotels, birdwatching etc.
<h3>6. Equipment hire</h3> <p>The Garden owns an apple mill and juice pasteuriser to be able to juice large quantities of fruit, mainly apples, pears and grapes which otherwise would go for composting. We also have a manual apple press and mincer.</p> 	<p>Slight growth in the number of groups/individuals hiring the equipment: 4 in Year 1; 5 in Year 2; 5 in year 3.</p> <p>We are currently supporting an amateur producer who is prototyping apple juice and cider from the Gardens' apples. We aim to continue this support.</p>



<p>We have set up an online booking system to make these available for hire to community groups and local apple growers, in return for a small donation. This connects apple growers across the Lothians.</p>	
<p>7. Activities with school students learning practical rural skills.</p> <p>The Ridge is a local charity and social enterprise that provides social support while training or re-training young people. One of their SQA accredited courses is Rural Skills which attracts participants from schools across East Lothian. The course was run for a third of the year at BCG from 2021 - 2024 until funding for transport was cut.</p> <p>The skills and work experience gained during this course are practical and provide young people an outdoor environment and space to build confidence and self-awareness. As this course is no longer an option for Dunbar teens, this is something we intend to set up and develop in collaboration with Dunbar Grammar School.</p>	<p>This is described at Section 3.2 above. We intend to work with the Ridge and Dunbar Grammar School to reintroduce the Rural Skills course, and explore how the Garden can be used to provide other accredited training.</p>
<p>Service and description:</p> <p>8. Beehive Garden at Dunbar Nursery School</p> <p>This is a collaborative project at Dunbar Nursery School. We have established a growing space where nursery children can grow food and plants and connect with nature.</p> <p>It is also a base for Dunbar Grammar students on the childcare course to come and do work experience with nursery children to have practical experience for their National Qualifications.</p>	<p>Future development:</p> <p>Secure continuation funding so the service can continue. We've been funded by DELAP, the Mushroom Trust, Belhaven Brewery, The Robertson Trust & The Amos Trust.</p> <p>Currently seeking continuity funding</p>
<p>9. Inter-generational Volunteers</p> <p>An intergenerational volunteering project which provides positive experiences for S4-S6 students at Dunbar Grammar school. Young volunteers undertake a dementia awareness training course and then weekly sessions with the residents doing a range of activities, and gardening.</p>	<p>Secure continuation funding so the service can continue.</p>



Young volunteers work towards a Saltire Award; but all participants benefit from the sharing of stories, the fun, camaraderie and bonds between older and younger people.	
<p>10. Pledgehog project</p> <p>This is a biodiversity project which has spun out from the Garden. It aims to raise awareness of the plight of hedgehogs in Dunbar and to help reverse the downward trend of populations by demonstrating how best to create hedgehog friendly habitat and access to gardens.</p> <p>This is a self-contained project under Sustaining Dunbar, funded by DELAP, Viridor, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Safe Deposit Scotland, Coop & Belhaven Brewery and delivered by our Pledgehog Project Officer. It relies on BCG as a part of a wildlife corridor in the town where hedgehogs can forage.</p>	Work with the Pledgehog Project Officer as a demonstration garden for what habitats suit wildlife and to encourage locals to garden for the benefit of wildlife.



4. Impact

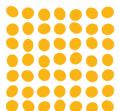
4.1 Logic model

We know that BCG makes a significant positive impact because of the extensive research on the benefits of green space in urban areas¹, postgraduate research on the impact of Belhaven Garden specifically, and life story interviews from our volunteers. We want to formalise our approach to monitoring impact so that the full benefits of BCG are captured. The logic model below sets out the expected social impact from the activities that we will deliver. This has been informed by logic models produced by the NHS Lothian charity², although we have adapted the content for use by a volunteer led group. It is set out under the four parts of our mission: **A Therapeutic space; A Growing space; A Learning space; and A Biodiverse space.**

A Therapeutic space:				
Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider Social Impact	Local policy contribution
<u>People:</u> Trustees; Garden Steering Group; Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions etc. Workers: Volunteer Coordinator. Partner organisations inc. Dunbar Dementia Network. <u>Facilities:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly volunteering sessions estimate of 1664 volunteer hours in Year 1. 5 carers groups will visit the Garden - involving 50 carers and 100 supported people annually. 500 people will visit the sensory garden annually. Local people who use the space to bring their children or walk the dog 	Participants have improved mental health Participants have improved physical health	People in the area lead healthier, happier lives. Health inequalities are reduced. Cost savings to NHS Lothian due to preventative work at the Garden which supports physical and mental health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Lothian Plan: Outcome 3.2. Dunbar & East Linton Area Plan. NHS Lothian Charity: Green Health Programme Strategy. NHS Lothian: Strategic Development Framework.

¹ There is a short summary at page 9 of the NHS Lothian Charity: Green Health Programme Strategy
<https://greenhealth.nhslothiancharity.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/04/green-health-strategy-web-1.pdf>

² At Annex 3 and 4 of the Greenspace and Health Strategic Framework for Edinburgh and the Lothians:
https://greenhealth.nhslothiancharity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/LothiansGreenHealthStrategy_web.pdf



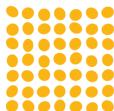
<p>Growing spaces: inc. communal plots.</p> <p>Sensory garden.</p>	<p>for a peaceful and safe enclosed space.</p>		<p>Improved health will enable some participants to return to employment.</p> <p>Discrimination and stigma relating to mental health is reduced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Lothian Sustainable Development Framework. • East Lothian Good Food Charter: Goal 3.
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A Growing space.

There are two parts: (a) Growing together as a community; and (b) Growing fresh produce

(a) Growing together as a community:

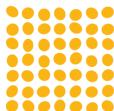
Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider Social Impact	Local policy contribution
<p><u>People:</u></p> <p>Trustees; Garden Steering Group; Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions; Local Good Food Alliance coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator; volunteers leading events and workshops.</p> <p>Partnerships including with Dunbar Grammar; Dunbar Day Centre, ELCAP, East Lothian Horizons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly volunteering sessions estimate of 1764 volunteer hours in Year 1. • 7 community wide events annually; attended by 210 people. • 8 workshops annually; attended by 96 people. • Intergenerational befriending involving 25 older people and 10 school pupils. 	<p>Participants have improved social connections</p>	<p>There is improved social cohesion across Dunbar and East Linton. New and longstanding residents are brought together.</p> <p>Social connections are made across generations.</p> <p>Social isolation and loneliness are reduced – leading to improvements in health and wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Plan: Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 • Dunbar & East Linton Area Plan. • NHS Lothian Charity: Green Health Programme Strategy.



<p><u>Facilities:</u> As above. Growing spaces for heritage crops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 people with additional needs take part in the Green Team - 208 therapeutic gardening hours annually. • 15 people with additional needs take part in regular volunteering. 	<p>People with additional needs are integrated into the community</p>	<p>Improved social cohesion. People with additional needs have more freedom, dignity, choice and control over their lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Lothian: Strategic Development Framework
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 New Scots participate in volunteering sessions - including growing heritage crops. 	<p>New Scots are integrated into the community</p>	<p>New Scots in Dunbar build diverse relationships and healthy intercultural bonds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Plan: Outcome 2.1

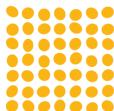
(b) Growing fresh produce:

Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider Social Impact	Local policy contribution
<p><u>People:</u> Trustees; Garden Steering Group; Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions etc. Workers: Local Good Food Alliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation of 21 raised beds; 9 communal field plots; 15 individual field plots; Polytunnel; 2 soft fruit patches; 143 fruiting trees. 	<p>Greater opportunities for growing within the local community The community has access to</p>	<p>People in the community value the food they eat, know where it comes from and how to prepare it. Food poverty (and therefore health inequalities) are reduced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunbar & East Linton Area Plan • East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy: Outcome 7 • NHS Lothian Sustainable

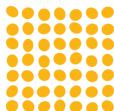


<p>coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. Partner organisations inc. the Community Carrot and Food Bank.</p> <p><u>Facilities:</u> Growing spaces: inc. communal plots. Orchard and nuttery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 237 kg of food distributed to individuals in the community. • 100 kg of food distributed to Dunbar Foodshare • 200 jars of preserves sold - value of £ 650 . • 8 outdoor cooking events, attended by 64 annually. 	<p>fresh, locally grown, healthy produce.</p>	<p>through access to low cost, nutritious produce. The community learns more about the links between food choices and climate change.</p> <p>The community has a diverse and vibrant food economy which celebrates, promotes, and supports local food producers and land resources.</p>	<p>Development Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Good Food Charter: Goals 1,2,3,4,5 and 7. • East Lothian Partnership Poverty Plan
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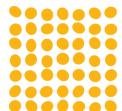
A Learning space:				
Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider Social Impact	Local policy contribution
<p><u>People:</u> Trustees; Garden Steering Group;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 skills shares engage 120 participants - 24 hours annually. 	<p>Participants learn new skills</p>	<p>People in the community will be better-skilled, confident and empowered. This includes empowerment to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy: Outcome 7.4.



<p>Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions etc.</p> <p>Workers: Local Good Food Alliance coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator; tutors/leads for workshops; staff at the Ridge and Dunbar Grammar.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 workshops annually; attended by 96 people. • 25 pupils attend dementia awareness training. • 20 pupils volunteer at the Beehive Garden each year. 	<p>People in Dunbar will have increased awareness of climate change and how they can respond</p>	<p>contribute to the community, and particularly to local responses to the climate emergency.</p> <p>Other gardens and green spaces in the area will be enhanced as local people gain growing skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Good Food Charter: Goal 4.
<p>Partner organisations inc. local schools, the Ridge CIC, East Lothian Works.</p> <p><u>Facilities:</u></p> <p>Growing spaces: inc. communal plots.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 participants gain Rural Skills SQA qualification • 20 pupils gain SQA Childcare qualification. • 30 participants gain Duke of Edinburgh and Saltire Awards. 	<p>Participants gain qualifications</p> <p>Participants grow in confidence</p>	<p>Local people will have high quality opportunities for people to learn, develop skills, and grow their potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Plan: Outcome 1.1 • East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy: Outcome 1.8 • East Lothian Local Economy Strategy Objective 2.
<p>Sensory Garden</p> <p>Outreach sites: the Beehive Garden and Dunbar Day Centre.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [250] children will participate in the Beehive Garden at Belhaven Nursery • [3] visits from groups of young people e.g. uniformed organisations, engaging [72] annually. 	<p>Children will learn about nature and growing</p>	<p>Engagement with natural environments at BCG supports increased levels of physical activity for children, lower levels of obesity, and improvements in mental health and cognitive performance.</p> <p>Children and young people will value local greenspace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Lothian Charity: Green Health Programme Strategy • East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy: Outcome 1.8 • East Lothian Good Food Charter: Goals 1 and 4



A biodiverse space:				
Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider Social Impact	Local policy contribution
<p><u>People:</u></p> <p>Trustees; Garden Steering Group; Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions etc.</p> <p>Workers: Local Good Food Alliance coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator.</p> <p><u>Facilities:</u></p> <p>Growing spaces; sensory garden; orchard; hedges, coppice; woodland; scrub, wildflower meadow; beehives; composting spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 large composting spaces. • Green manure growing and harvesting. • 3 bee colonies in hives at the Garden. • Wildflower meadow with 47 types of wildflower identified; and 4 wild grasses. • 4 hedges and 3 dead hedges cultivated. • Creation of bog garden/ wetland area. 	<p>Habitats at the Garden are enhanced.</p> <p>There is a wider range of habitats at the Garden.</p> <p>Local people have opportunities to experience and connect with nature</p>	<p>Biodiversity at the site increases.</p> <p>Improving habitats at the Garden leads to improved carbon sequestration and air quality regulation.</p> <p>Ecosystems are improved.</p> <p>Increased biodiversity helps to mitigate the impact of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy: Outcome 6.1 • East Lothian Community Wealth Building Charter • NHS Lothian Charity: Green Health Programme Strategy • NHS Lothian Sustainable Development Framework.



4.2 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring our outputs and outcomes helps us to:

- Show the positive difference BCG makes – so we can better engage the community and partners.
- Learn and improve.
- Make the case to funders for support.

It will be the responsibility of the Steering Group, overseen by the Sustaining Dunbar board. There will also be support from our Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions.

1. Creating a baseline:

The baseline for reporting the evaluation findings will be:

- Current outputs, recorded in the BCG Registration Book and Steering Group Logbook.
- Our Biodiversity Baseline Assessment, carried out in January 2025.
- Qualitative feedback from participants – recorded in our secure Google Drive and presented in our Asset Transfer Request form.
- Demographics and statistics in Appendix 1.1 of this Plan.

1. Creating a baseline

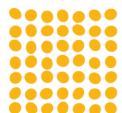
2. Gathering evidence

3. Reporting

2. Gathering evidence:

Evidence will be gathered on:

- Numbers of participants: through the registration book; information from partner organisations (e.g. the Ridge); number of Sustaining Dunbar members.
- Produce: where possible, yield weighted/measured at Harvest time; record taken of sales to Community Carrot and donations to Dunbar Foodshare.
- Biodiversity: recording varieties of wildflower and wildlife at the Garden; in future, carrying out a follow up Biodiversity Assessment.
- Qualifications and learning outcomes: gathered through partner organisations such as Dunbar Grammar School, and (where appropriate) workshop tutors.



- Quality of our activities/services – suggestion box; informal feedback from participants; monitoring feedback on social media; for more structured activities we will consider short evaluation forms.
- Impact on participants: through ‘life story’ interviews with participants; (where appropriate) observation / informal conversation with participants; annual survey for participants asking about the difference the Garden has made to them, feedback from GPs.

3. Reporting

BCG is volunteer led, so this needs to be kept manageable. The Steering Group meets monthly, and monitoring impact will be a standing item on the agenda. This will enable early identification of any targets which are not on track, so corrective action can be taken.

The Steering Group will provide quarterly updates to the board. We will aim to produce an annual report for BCG which can be promoted to participants, the wider community, partner organisations and funders.

4.3 Fit with Funders Outcomes

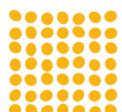
We will seek a contribution from the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) toward the purchase price for the site. There is a strong fit with the SLF outcomes:

Outcome 1: Our communities will achieve more sustainable economic, environmental and/or social development through the ownership of land and buildings

Building a sustainable economy:

- Democratic and inclusive business models will be supported through trading activity at BCG, and through support to the Community Carrot community benefit society.
- Benefits to mental health from participation at BCG will enable people to return to the workforce. At least two of our volunteers have been able to take up employment again, partly due to the therapeutic benefits of volunteering at BCG. Research from the Mental Health Foundation sets out the economic value associated with nature-based interventions for mental health³.
- Dunbar Grammar School pupils are supported into the workforce through the Intergenerational Volunteers and the Beehive Garden projects: participants report benefits to their confidence, employability and sense of purpose. Some have gone on to find employment in childcare: provision of childcare delivers further economic benefits.

³ <https://www.thrive.org.uk/how-we-help/social-therapeutic-horticulture-resource-centre/evidence-of-the-benefits-for-sth/economic-value#>



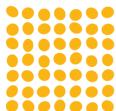
- Young people will gain qualifications: we supported an SQA National 4 level Rural Skills course for 3 years and plan to revive this in partnership with the Grammar School. This also helps to improve participation rates for 16-19 year olds which is a priority within the East Lothian Plan.
- Distribution and sale of fresh produce at the site supports a vibrant local food economy and shortens sustainable food supply chains (in line with the East Lothian Good Food Charter).
- We support economic participation through production and sale of preserves, and hire of our fruit pressing equipment to support amateur producers.

Sustainable environmental outcomes:

- Biodiversity at the site will be protected and increased as habitats at BCG mature and as we create new habitats. Before we took on the site it had an estimated value of 3.75 biodiversity units, and by 2025, had a value of 6.13BUs. Without community ownership the site will be developed into housing, and its biodiversity lost.
- BCG is one of the last remaining green spaces in Dunbar: others have been subsumed by housing developments. It provides ecological connectivity with other green spaces marked for protection in the Local Place Plan.
- BCG provides formal and informal opportunities for skill sharing and learning about horticulture, regenerative land management and biodiversity. This gives participants confidence and skills to cultivate their own gardens.
- BCG provides a means to engage the community around low carbon lifestyles and community resilience to the climate emergency. We educate about food growing which helps to demonstrate the links between food choices and climate change.
- We practise organic farming at BCG: this contributes to improved soil health which supports healthy ecosystems (this is an outcome within NPF4).
- Our Beehive Garden outreach project gives nursery children opportunities to grow food and plants – increasing their engagement with nature and understanding of the value of nature through outdoor learning.

Social development:

- We support community cohesion. The Local Place Plan notes a 60% increase in population between 2001-2021 and that traditional patterns of community have changed as a result. Our activities enable new and longstanding residents to meet, contributing to a strong resilient community where people respect and support each other.
- We help to mitigate the impact of food poverty through distribution of surplus food and support to Dunbar Foodshare and directly to nursery schools. This is vital, with a 137% increase in number of children referred to foodbanks across East Lothian between 2020 and 2023; and only 21% of people in the region getting the recommended daily amount of fruits and vegetables.



- We tackle social isolation and loneliness. Activities at BCG bring together a diverse range of people, with the impact that people here are more connected, and have opportunities to develop meaningful relationships. Interviews with participants describe the life-changing impact of connection with others at BCG.
- People from marginalised groups such as New Scots or people with additional needs are supported to take part at BCG: this breaks down social barriers and supports participation as equal members of the local community.

OUTCOME 2: Our Communities will have a stronger role in and control over their development

- Consultations over several years have shown overwhelming support for BCG to be saved; and for green spaces to be protected ahead of further development. Community ownership of the site delivers on these aspirations.
- BCG is volunteer led: last year there were 552 volunteers and 1,104 volunteer on- site hours. This means local people control the delivery of services and are directly involved in supporting each other.
- BCG will be owned by Sustaining Dunbar: a charity with open membership for everyone in Ward 6. This contributes to the Community Wealth Building pillar of inclusive/plural ownership.

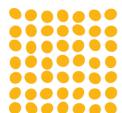
OUTCOME 3: Our communities own well managed, financially sustainable land and buildings

Well-managed

- A skills audit was undertaken as part of this business plan, showing a high degree of skills and experience across the Sustaining Dunbar board and the BCG Steering Group. Members of each are passionate about the positive impact of BCG.
- BCG has operated successfully for over 12 years. Our structure of management by the Steering Group (supported by Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions) works well. BCG is referred to as an exemplar in two public sector strategy documents.
- We have longstanding partnerships with local third, public and private sector groups (evidenced by the 22 letters we received in support of community ownership). These partners contribute further skills and capacity.

Financially sustainable

- The financial projections within this plan show that BCG can continue to operate sustainably, with a small surplus. It has already operated sustainably for 13 years.



4.4 Financial Impact

The social value has been calculated using the social value portal and amounts to:

- In year 1, we estimate the potential social value to be £665,457
- In year 2, we estimate the potential social value to be £681,872
- In year 3, we estimate the potential social value to be £728,542
- In year 4, we estimate the potential social value to be £731,327
- In year 5, we estimate the potential social value to be £768,199

Total: £3,575,398

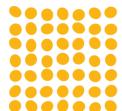
In terms of activities, we estimate the following social value generated over the five years:

- Volunteering: £399,877
- Green team: £65,250
- Visiting group: £69,990
- Community wide events: £2,504,859
- Workshop: £147,155
- Accredited training: £388,267
- Total: £3,575,398

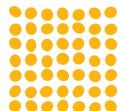
The social impact value of the community events is relatively high because our experience is that there is little overlap between those attending each event (eg. those people attending the wassailing are largely different from those coming to the seedling swap etc.). These events therefore impact a greater number of people across the community.

The value outcomes we have identified for each activity are:

- Volunteering: regular volunteering, gardening, feel belonging to neighbourhood
- Green team: gardening



- Visiting groups: attend youth clubs, improvements in confidence (youth)
- Community wide events: feel belonging to neighbourhood, greenspaces are of a high standard
- Workshops: active in social group
- Accredited training: vocational training



5. Governance and Management

5.1 Legal structure

Sustaining Dunbar is a Company Limited by Guarantee (SC351910) with charitable status (SC040106).

This structure provides us with a separate legal personality and limited liability for members. Charitable status will provide rates relief entitlement and access to charitable funding and other support.

The powers in the constitution are wide enough to cover the acquisition and further development of BCG.

Trading activity at BCG will be low level, but is likely to constitute primary purpose trading because it directly contributes to our charitable purposes. This will continue to be monitored by the board.

5.2 Governance

Membership:

Ordinary membership is open to any individual over 16 who is resident in the Community (Ward 6); entitled to vote at a local government election in a polling district that includes the community or part of it; and supports the charity's purposes.

There is also associate and junior membership, but these members do not have voting rights. The ordinary members therefore control the charity.

We have [] members in total, of which [] are ordinary members with voting rights.

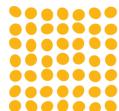
Board:

The majority of board members are Elected Directors, elected by the membership. The constitution also enables the board to co-opt an additional 3 directors to bring specific skills and experience.

At present, we have 8 directors.

Directors meet regularly to discuss progress and plan ahead and all decisions are fully discussed, minuted and approved before implementation.

The skills audit carried out as part of this business planning showed that trustees have strong skills and experience. No skills gaps were identified: the board has the capacity to take on and develop BCG and there is no overreliance on particular individuals. There is some potential to grow experience of asset development, but as the board already has some skills here, this is not a critical gap.



The board also oversees Sustaining Dunbar's membership of the Transition Network, Development Trusts Association Scotland, Scottish Communities Climate Action Network, Community Energy Scotland and Nourish Scotland. These links provide further capacity.

Steering Group:

Our constitution allows the board to “delegate any of its powers to sub-committees, each consisting of not less than one Director and such other person or persons as it thinks fit or which it delegates to the sub-committee to appoint”.

Day to day management of the Garden is carried out on behalf of the board by the Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group. Its role is to: “to oversee management and development of Belhaven Community Garden on behalf of the Sustaining Dunbar board, including liaising with NHS Lothian and creating plans and proposals that the larger group of volunteers can engage with”.

In practice, the Steering Group's work includes planning the planting schemes, working parties, events and socials etc.

The Steering Group has 7 members, including one trustee. This provides a direct link to the Sustaining Dunbar board. In practice, another member of the Steering Group also attends part of the board meetings to provide an update on BCG and the outreach projects.

As regular volunteers themselves, Steering Group members are in regular contact with other volunteers who are actively encouraged to share their ideas, opinions and knowledge. Volunteers' ideas are then brought to the Steering Group meetings.

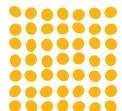
The members of the Steering Group have different roles. These are: Meeting Facilitator; Plot-holder Lead; Treasurer; Link to Belhaven Community Hospital; Outreach communications; and Social event lead.

The Steering Group meets monthly. Meeting agendas and minutes are recorded in an online logbook document. This is saved on a secure Google Drive and available to the trustees.

In relation to skills, the 2025 skills audit showed that the Steering Group has appropriate skills and experience to manage the Garden post-acquisition, although building skills in relation to marketing would be helpful.

The Steering Group has operated in this way for around 5 years, so this is already working well. However, over spring/summer 2025 we intend to formalise the governance of the Steering Group in preparation for community ownership. This means agreeing and documenting:

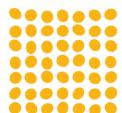
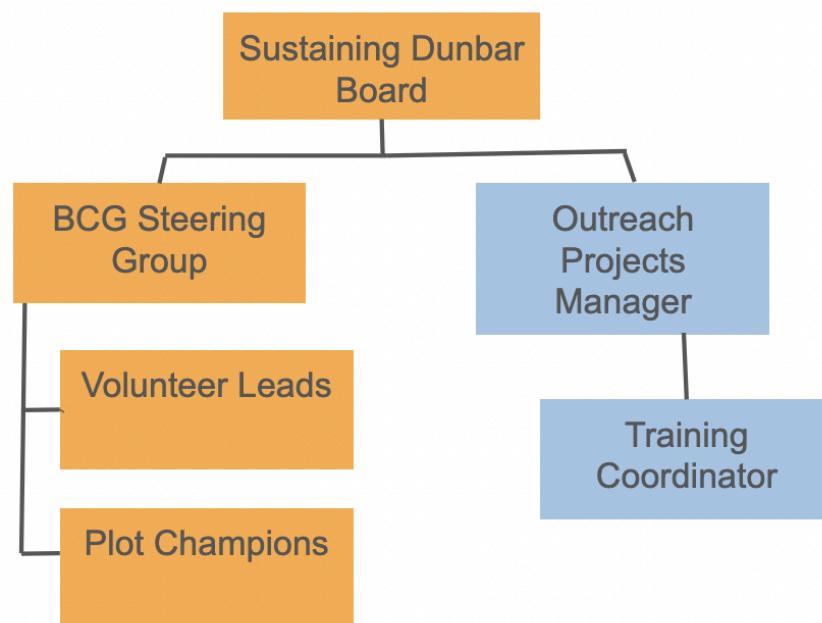
- A formal scheme of delegation, setting out what must be approved by the Sustaining Dunbar board. This will cover, for example, delegated authority in relation to submission of funding bids, and the capital work at BCG (these will require signoff from the board).
- Composition of the Steering Group. This has developed organically as interested volunteers have stepped forward. We will agree and document how new members of the Steering Group can be reappointed, and also consider term limits.



- Code of conduct. Our Steering Group works well together and this has not been an issue to date. However, to support good governance, we will agree a code of conduct setting out expectations (including attendance at meetings etc), with provisions for removal from the Steering Group if the code of conduct is breached.
- Specific roles on the Steering Group. At present these are relatively informal. Role descriptions will be documented so there is clarity on what is required, and in order to support succession planning.

5.3 Staffing and volunteer structure

The structure is set out below:



Volunteers:

Volunteer positions are shown in orange. These include the Sustaining Dunbar board, and Steering Group (described above). The other roles are:

- Volunteer Leads: We have a rota of 5 volunteer leads (all PVG checked). They plan and lead the weekly volunteering sessions which undertake the majority of garden work. We organise this through groupsio.com – this platform enables us to discuss activities, update volunteers, share files, photos and plans.
- Plot Champions: Each of the communal growing plots has a volunteer ‘champion’ that oversees the annual cycle of growing and caring for soil health.

All volunteers receive a copy of our volunteer agreement and must sign a form to confirm their acceptance. The agreement includes induction, conduct, practical information about tasks, health & safety responsibilities, and support, supervision and management etc.

There is also an agreement for Plot Holders which sets out responsibilities in relation to the individual plots.

Paid positions:

Outreach Gardening Projects are supported by two paid positions:

- Outreach Projects Manager: Currently paid 1 day/week.
- Sustaining Dunbar Training Coordinator – this is a paid (grant funded) position. Activities extend beyond BCG, but they help to deliver the Green Team volunteering sessions, Beehive Garden and Intergenerational Volunteers.

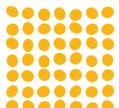
This plan sets out our intention to recruit a Green Health officer in Year 3. Line management responsibilities will be developed more fully in due course to support this role.

5.4 Operation, Policy and procedures

Sustaining Dunbar has been operating since 2008, and the necessary policies and procedures for BCG are in place. Garden specific policies have been drafted by the Steering Group for approval by the board. The board reviews all policies annually.

In preparation for community ownership, Garden specific policies will be reviewed by the Board to ensure that these remain suitable.

Policies and procedures can be supplied on request.



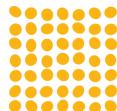
Sustaining Dunbar has a suite of employment policies in place – these are less relevant to BCG as present as there are no dedicated staff for the Garden. We will review these prior to taking on a staff member in Year 3 to ensure they remain suitable.

5.5 Partners

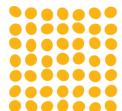
Over the 13 years of BCG, we have built up strong partnerships with local third, public and private sector groups.

This section sets out the key partnerships for service delivery at BCG and how we will develop these:

Organisation	How partners can contribute
Dunbar Grammar School	We work with them to provide work experience for pupils through the Beehive Garden and Intergenerational Volunteers projects. We will work with them to revive the Rural Skills course for their pupils. We also take on pupils on Saturdays who volunteer with us for their Duke of Edinburgh award.
Dunbar Primary and Nursery School	Hosts the Beehive Garden. We will continue to invest in this outreach project. We will continue to supply them with seasonal fruit in the autumn
Dunbar Medical Centre	Referral of individuals potentially using social prescribing in the future.
West Barns Primary School	We will continue to encourage regular visits from primary school classes.
The Ridge CIC	We will work with the Ridge so BCG continues to be used by them to support the marginalised young people they work with. We will work with the Ridge and Grammar School to reintroduce the Rural Skills course. We will also use trainees at the Ridge to carry out the necessary repairs to the site boundary wall.
Community Carrot	We will continue to supply them with fresh produce and preserves. We will encourage more use of BCG for outdoor food and fire cooking sessions for children, run by their Community Food Outreach worker.
Dunbar Foodshare	We will continue to supply the Foodshare with fresh produce. We will also seek to encourage referrals of people using the Foodshare who would benefit from therapeutic gardening activities.

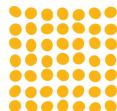


Dunbar Day Centre	We will work with them to continue the Intergenerational Volunteers intergenerational befriending project.
Dunbar Dementia Network SCIO	With installation of running water and toilet facilities, group visits can restart. We will also encourage visits from individual members and their carers.
East Lothian Horizons	We have worked with them to support three Dunbar based refugee families – we will work with ELH to develop our support to displaced people.
Dunbar Shed	Contributes to ad hoc projects such as coppicing our hazel and willow. We will be able to work with their volunteers to support some of our capital work (like installing the container units).
Dunbar Community Woodland Group	We host a tree nursery for them and tool share as well as having volunteers in common.
Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project	Visits with some of the vulnerable young people they support. Has also held a summer holiday club at the Garden previously. With improved infrastructure at the site we can consider bringing this back.
East Lothian Council Community Justice team	Supports us by mowing parts of the site. There may be potential for further support with parts of the capital upgrades.

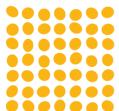


5.6 Risk Mitigation

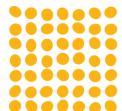
Risk	Impact	Probability	Existing Controls	Action Required	Lead Responsibility
Building acquisition					
Price cannot be agreed with NHS Lothian.	High	Med	Valuation obtained for present use. Ongoing engagement with the NHS. Support from COSS with the CAT process. Lobbying for the land designated for community gardening in the next Local Development Plan.	Quantify the value of cost savings to the NHS (as far as possible). Ongoing support from elected representatives. Submit asset transfer request; and appeal if turned down.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees CAT Working Group
Failure to secure funding for purchase.	High	Low	Engagement with SLF Officer. Business planning through Stage 1.	Finalise and submit Stage 2 bid.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees CAT Working Group
Facilities / capital developments					
Unable to secure capital funding for the infrastructure upgrades.	Med	Low	Operations not contingent on the works. Target funders identified. Phasing of the capital upgrades.	Approach target funders over Spring/ Summer 2025. Monitor available grant funding in case new funds emerge.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group



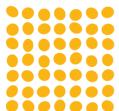
Risk	Impact	Probability	Existing Controls	Action Required	Lead Responsibility
				Consider community fundraising /crowdfunding.	
Capital costs greater than anticipated.	Med	Med	Quotes obtained for top priorities; and desktop research carried out on others.	Volunteer effort / support to keep costs down – e.g. from the Dunbar Shed; Community Justice Team; the Ridge. Works are phased over a longer period.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group
Vandalism at the site	Med	High	Partnership working so the Garden is well known as a community owned asset.	Anti-vandal fencing at the Polytunnel. £1,000 p.a. included in financial projections for site repairs. Marketing /comms to make the case that the site is community owned.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group
Sustainability					
Costs are not covered by income generated.	High	Low	Cashflows prepared. We have assumed that costs will be higher post-acquisition.	Ongoing realistic cashflow forecasting to ensure we understand	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group



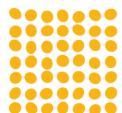
Risk	Impact	Probability	Existing Controls	Action Required	Lead Responsibility
			Some projected running costs (e.g. volunteer expenses / marketing costs) can be reduced.	the level of income we need to cover costs. Revenue funding projections are very low (£500 p.a.) and could be exceeded.	
Discretionary rates relief is not received.	Med	Low	Desktop review shows ELC provides this to numerous other projects. Review of policy to show the contribution we make to ELC from the Garden.	Demonstrating impact /cost savings to ELC from the Garden.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group
Insufficient reserves to manage cashflow.	High	Low	Board and Steering Group with experience of managing and monitoring budgets. Keep costs low.	Ongoing careful financial monitoring. Plan fundraising events/drives around this.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group
Governance					
Loss of key individuals	Med	Med	Skills audit shows strength in depth across the board and steering group. Volunteer Leads and Plot Champions provide a route into the governance structure.	Write a succession plan for trustees. Opportunities for shadowing/peer learning to share skills.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group



Risk	Impact	Probability	Existing Controls	Action Required	Lead Responsibility
				Formalising the Steering Group including how new people can join. Work with Dunbar Grammar to encourage young people into the Steering Group.	
Lack of clarity on roles /responsibilities between board and Steering Group.	Med	Med	A trustee sits on the Steering Group. The Steering Group logbook shows meeting minutes and actions – available to the Trustees.	Agreeing a formal scheme of delegation for the Steering Group, set by the board.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group
Service delivery					
The approach becomes too 'commercial' and people are priced out.	High	Low	Our approach is well embedded: services are free or low cost, and delivered through the skills of local people.	For charged events, use suggested donations rather than a set price. Good comms so that people who can pay are content to contribute to sustain BCG; and those who can't do not feel pressure.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group
Partners no longer willing/able to deliver services from BCG.	Med	Med	Longstanding relationships and track record of joint working.	Infrastructure improvements make the	Steering Group



Risk	Impact	Probability	Existing Controls	Action Required	Lead Responsibility
			We do not charge for use of the site by partners – we act as an enabler.	site more accessible for partners.	
Demand for services is lower than expected (e.g. for workshops, events).	High	Med	Our services are already being delivered. Strong evidence of demand shown in the 2025 survey. Good work with local partners.	Enhanced promotion and marketing. Ongoing social media and digital marketing plan.	Sustaining Dunbar Trustees Steering Group
Changes to climate impact on growing.	Low	Med	The steering Group has the skills to monitor this and adapt.	Trialling different crops.	Steering Group



6. Marketing

We already have strong communication channels for both Sustaining Dunbar and Belhaven Community Garden.

We primarily use the BCG Facebook page⁴ to provide updates and promote activities and events at BCG. This has 985 members.

We also use the monthly Sustaining Dunbar newsletter which has over 600 subscribers.

We also have a separate 'Save BCG' website – this has mostly been used to provide updates to the community on the asset transfer process. It has links to the separate Sustaining Dunbar site which contains more information on BCG.

Other channels include our strong links to other groups (such as the Community Carrot and the schools); and to other growing projects in the Lothians. We have had good press coverage in the East Lothian Courier⁵. Word of mouth across the community is also an important communication channel for us – board, Steering Group members and other volunteers all live locally.

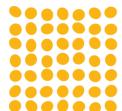
The outline marketing strategy on the next page shows how we will use various channels to build on this presence.

In general, our marketing strategy aims to:

- Raise awareness of BCG as a welcoming and accessible green space to visit: a therapeutic space, growing space, learning space and biodiverse space.
- Ensure that the community and partners (including schools and GPs etc) are aware of the full range of activities at BCG.
- Encourage people to get involved – especially those who have not taken part in growing previously.
- Raise awareness of the benefits BCG delivers to the community and celebrate these.

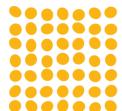
⁴ https://www.facebook.com/groups/335892469879084/?locale=en_GB

⁵ <https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/24631332.campaign-launched-future-belhaven-community-garden/>

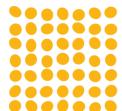


	Year 0 (i.e. pre acquisition)	Year 1 (first year of community ownership)	Year 2 onwards
Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide updates on the asset transfer on the Save BCG website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen the focus of the Save BCG website to BCG as a whole (so not just the asset transfer). Add accessibility information to Euan's Guide (once infrastructure improvements have been made). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add signup capability to the website (for easy signup to workshops etc). Update information on volunteer and training opportunities in listings and directories⁶.
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue regular posting on the BCG Facebook page. Develop the BCG Instagram account – this has been set up but not yet frequently used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media campaign to generate interest prior to and during launch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media profiles regularly updated with details of activities; upcoming events and workshops, features on key partners using BCG, volunteer recruitment information, etc.
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain GDPR compliant contacts database of supporters of BCG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a quarterly newsletter. Maintain individual contact with key partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing newsletter and contact with partners.
Print and Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider stories in the press as updates on the community asset transfer (this needs to be treated with caution however as we negotiate with the NHS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories in the Courier to coincide with community ownership. Poster campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular 'What's On' updates to local press.

⁶ Such as <https://www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities#/search?keywords=dunbar&location=&lat=&lon=&sort=relevance>



Events and word of mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ongoing events – next high-profile events will be for Civic Week in June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Event to celebrate BGC in community ownership. •Consider door to door visits to neighbours on Ash Grove in advance of infrastructure work, so they are listened to and know who to approach if there are any issues. •Ongoing in-person fundraising drives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ongoing events and stalls for fundraising drives.
Onsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Consider chalk drawn signs on the pavement on the day of events etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Signage on/around BCG following transfer of ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maintain and update onsite signage



7. Funding and Finance

7.1 Asset transfer and acquisition

The Community Asset Transfer bid will be submitted to the NHS offering a price of the current use value of £45,000.

Though there is a wide range of potential valuations depending on the use of the site, it is clear that the current use and current planning permission is for a community garden and so we believe that this should be the basis used for valuation. As explained in Section 4.2 of the application, we consider that the continuation and further development of the community garden also provides 'best value' for NHS Lothian.

7.2 Financial Sustainability

Approach to sustainability:

Our approach is that BCG and the services we provide should be free and open to all. We have historically not put pressure on people to pay for events or workshops, although we do collect donations and run fundraisers. The majority of work at BCG is delivered by our volunteers, willing to share their time and skills.

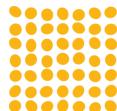
This approach fundamentally will not change, although we recognise that ownership of BCG will bring additional costs.

Running costs:

Expenditure has been low in previous years: £1,502 in 2023; £1,304 in 2022 and £4,056 in 2021 (of which £2,600 was purchase of our fruit press). Public liability insurance will also need to be added.

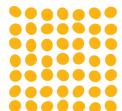
We anticipate that expenditure will be higher once we take the site into community ownership – largely due to the additional infrastructure which we will install:

	Annual	Notes
Rates	£0	As a charity Sustaining Dunbar would receive 80% mandatory rates relief. We assume that the additional 20% discretionary relief will also be obtained given our contribution to East Lothian Council strategies.



Water rates	£0	We assume that the Water and Sewerage Charges Exemption Scheme will apply ⁷ .
Insurance	£1000	
Electricity	£800	Rough estimate – we do not currently have an electricity connection. Usage likely to be low.
Waste collection	£360	
Growing costs - plants, seeds, compost etc.	£300	Low as we produce our own compost etc.
Equipment - repair and replacement	£800	Based on previous years.
Site maintenance and repair	£2,000	To cover repairs to the new infrastructure such as container units, as well as the polytunnel etc.
Volunteer expenses	£1200	Though currently only £300, we have increased this to allow us to attract more volunteers and more who may be on a low income and need expenses to attend.
Marketing	£400	Increase in previous years to support increased donation and fundraising income.
Contribution to COG	£300	i.e. Community Outreach Growing, such as the Beehive Garden at Dunbar Nursery School.
Contribution to Full Cost Recovery	£300	i.e. contribution to insurance, accountancy, website hosting costs etc incurred by Sustaining Dunbar. Based on previous years.
Sundry / Misc.	£250	

⁷ <https://www.mygov.scot/water-sewerage-exemption>



Total:	£7710	

Our financial projections include a 3% inflationary increase from year 2 onwards.

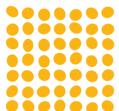
Income generation:

Income in previous years has been modest: £2,522 in 2023; £2,213 in 2022 and £4,177 in 2021 (although £3,103 of this related to grants for purchase of the fruit press).

Income to cover increased costs from community ownership will be generated from:

Trading income:

	Income in Y1	Notes
Community events	£1,216	<p>We run a range of events – some are free, but others have a fundraising element.</p> <p>We have estimated 7 events in Year 1; with an average of 30 attendees plus peaks for particular events (such as the annual seed swap and apple day that usually have over 100 attendees); and average donation per person of £4. We assume that direct costs for events will be 20% of income.</p> <p>These are averages only, and intended to reflect the diversity of events we run.</p>
Workshops	£640	<p>As with events, these vary widely in content and formality.</p> <p>In Year 1, we estimate 8 events, with an average attendance of 12. The average price per workshop is £15.</p> <p>Direct costs for each workshop are £80 for a tutor; and £20 for materials.</p> <p>These are averages and are intended to capture the diversity of the workshops.</p>
Equipment hire	£390	A small income stream, based on 13 hires per year, with an average £30 donation per hire in Year 1.



Donations from plot holders	£500	£250 secured in 2023. This increase in future years with a more deliberative marketing plan for donations from plotholders and security of tenure, but it is still modest.
Sale of produce	£800	We estimate £1,000 per year in gross sales. This is based on the growth over previous years - £1,033 in 2023; £650 in 2022; and £876 in 2020. Direct costs are £70 for kitchen hire; and £130 for labels / printing etc.
Total trading income	£3,046	

Fundraising and donations:

This includes:

- £1,500 donations. This is based on the growth over previous years, of £1,488 in 2023; £949 in 2022. We have included a larger marketing budget to support this.
- Modest revenue funding – i.e. small grants from local fundraisers. In practice, this could be exceeded.

Excluding capital funding (addressed below), this amounts to £7500 income from fundraising and donations in Year 1.

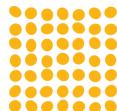
From Year 3, we have included revenue funding of circa £35,000 for a Green Health officer role – to develop social prescribing and wellbeing services. In the event that funding for this role cannot be secured, we will aim to take forward these services as best we can through volunteer effort, supported by our local partners. Existing services and wellbeing activity would carry on as at present.

Summary:

A summary of the 5 year financial projections is shown below. Note that the summary includes:

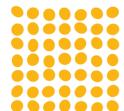
- Capital developments – described below. These are grant funded and if funding cannot be secured, we are able to continue our services without these.
- Revenue funding for a Green Health officer role, hence the peak in year three. Again, if funding cannot be secured, existing services and wellbeing activity would carry on as at present.

This shows that BCG breaks even, with a small surplus being built up over the 5 years shown. Full cash flows can be seen at appendix 5.



Summary

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Income					
<i>Trading</i>	£3,046	£4,173	£4,358	£4,453	£4,548
<i>Donations and Funding</i>	£79,641	£16,400	£52,500	£40,000	£40,000
Total	£82,687	£20,573	£56,858	£44,453	£44,548
% trading	4%	20%	8%	10%	10%
Expenditure					
<i>Salaries</i>	£0	£0	£31,650	£32,600	£33,577
<i>Running costs</i>	£7,710	£7,941	£8,172	£8,425	£8,678
<i>Capital development</i>	£72,121	£10,000	£15,000	£0	£0
Total	£79,831	£17,941	£54,822	£41,024	£42,255
Surplus/deficit	£2,856	£2,632	£2,036	£3,429	£2,293
Balance carried forward	£2,856	£5,488	£7,523	£10,952	£13,245



7.3 Capital development and funding

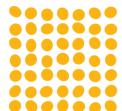
Capital development and funding

This section sets out our plans for capital development and how that will be funded. Details on funders and their requirements are at Appendix 4.

If funding cannot be secured, current service and activities can continue as at present.

Capital development	Timescale	Estimated cost	Notes on cost	Target funders
Repair to boundary wall	Immediate priority	£34,916	Quote received from The Ridge CIC.	Scottish Landfill Communities Fund East Lothian Council - Community Intervention Fund.
Water connection	Immediate priority	£1,240	Quote from Scottish Water.	We have included the other immediate priorities together as these are relatively small amounts individually, with a total of £28,525. This will be covered by funders with a focus on gardening / biodiversity / horticulture etc:
Electricity connection	Immediate priority	£2,185	Quote from SP Energy Networks.	
20ft Storage container	Immediate priority	£3,500	Estimate of £2500 plus VAT; plus shipping. Some variation in the quality of single use containers – a cheaper option may be possible, but would be likely to have a shorter lifespan ⁸ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mushroom Trust ● A E B Charitable Trust ● The Southall Trust ● The Blair Foundation
Toilet	Immediate priority	£18,600	Kazuba composting toilet. Accessible without urinal - £14,400 with installation £4200	

⁸ <https://rfbcontainers.co.uk/cheap-shipping-containers/> ; <https://containercabins.co.uk/container-category/shipping-containers-new/> ;
<https://shippingcontainersofgrangemouth.co.uk/location/east/sales/shipping-container-sales-edinburgh>



Fence off polytunnel area	Immediate priority	£2,000	Rough estimate – depends on fence type and meterage ⁹ .	
Gates and locks	Immediate priority	£1,000	Rough estimate – depends on gate type ¹⁰ .	
Containerised office/canteen	Year 1	£8,680	Around £6,400, plus Vat, plus delivery (estimated at £1000) ¹¹ .	The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All.
Outdoor classroom / sheltered area	Year 2	£10,000	Rough estimate – costs vary widely depending on the requirements ¹² .	This is in Year 2 so can be further scoped out, but we are a good fit with the MacRobert Trust.
Drop off point area	Year 3	£20,000 to £75,000	Full costs for the parking area will be drawn up in due course. There are a range of variables depending on nature and quality.	This may be more challenging to fund, and will be scoped out in Years 1-3.

7.4 Revenue funding

⁹ <https://allsteelfencing.co.uk/product/2-0m-high-v-mesh-security-fencing-from-13-50-per-metre/>; <https://firstfence.co.uk/1-5m-high-v-mesh-security-fencing>

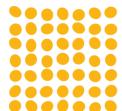
¹⁰ Some options here: <https://mcveighparker.com/gates/farm-gates/metal-field-gates>; <https://www.treelinescotland.com/fencing/gates/steel-gates/>

¹¹ <https://containercabins.co.uk/container/new-20ft-x-8ft-av-office/>

¹² https://www.creative-activity.co.uk/outdoor-classroom-10x10ft.html?srsltid=AfmB0oqXISB1zx80sHtq4hMYi640YpTI931WJTSKiy8rZFJxPWt_G3a0;

https://www.logspan.com/outdoor-classrooms.html?srsltid=AfmB0orOvhc7A9kCDOD5-I0vS9L_fJwHAqXjllHtOT9w-2a9Sldk2Fet;

<https://www.customc.co.uk/product-page/octagonal-outdoor-classroom>



We are planning for a Green Health officer role to be taken on in Year 3. This will be grant funded. The full job description will be drawn up in due course, but we anticipate that this will be a full time role, with salary of £27,000¹³ (so total annual employment costs of £31,650 once pension and NI contributions have been included). We also anticipate a 3% annual cost of living increase.

This is a strong fit with the National Lottery Community Action fund. Details of this fund and other options for revenue funding are in Appendix 3.2

¹³ Some example roles we have considered: <https://goodmoves.org/vacancy/a4s3z000003blaSAAU/green-health-coordinator?page=27&sort=newest> and <https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/organisations/fife-coast-countryside-trust/jobs/green-health-partnership-coordinator-415176?featured=true&cType=RecruitmentCampaign&sType=FeaturedJob>



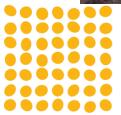


Business Plan Appendices

Belhaven Community Garden

Sustaining Dunbar

March 2025



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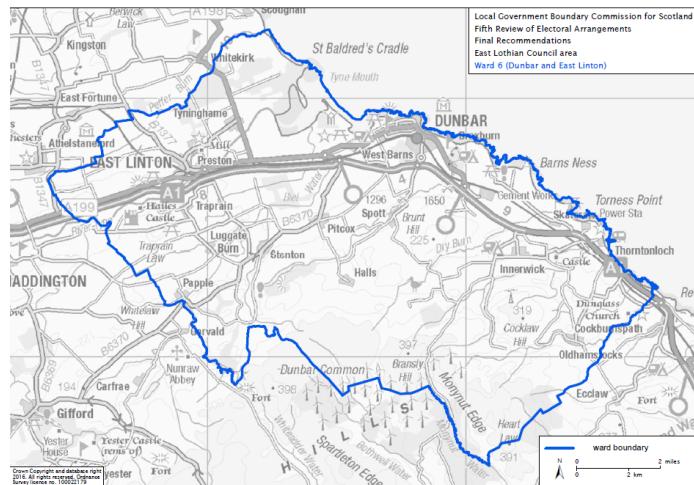
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Appendix BP1: Desktop research

1.1 Demographics and statistics

This section provides key statistics relating to the Electoral Ward for Dunbar and East Linton (Ward 6)¹⁴. This is the community of benefit defined in the Sustaining Dunbar constitution.

Statistics are gathered from the detailed Ward Profile published by East Lothian Council in December 2024¹⁵, supplemented with information from an October 2024 presentation from NHS Lothian on Health Outcomes & Inequalities in Dunbar & East Linton.



Population:

The total population is 15,764. 71.8% of the population of the Ward live in Dunbar/West Barns, and 11.9% live in East Linton.

There is a higher proportion of children aged 0-15 in the Ward than the East Lothian and Scotland averages. There is also a slightly higher proportion of people aged 65 and over:

	Dunbar and East Linton	Scotland	East Lothian Council
aged 0-15	19.6%	18.0%	16.4%
working age (16-64)	58.7%	60.9%	63.6
aged 65 and over	21.7%	21.1%	20.0%

Future population trends:

2018 population projections¹⁶ estimate that the population of East Lothian Council is due to increase by 7.2% by 2028 – this is the second highest percentage rise out of the 32 local authority areas.

The projected population increase for the Ward is higher still: the 2018 based population projections show a 16.8% overall increase to 17,243 in 2028 in Dunbar, more than double the 7.2% increase for East Lothian.

¹⁴ See https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/32106/ward_6_map

¹⁵ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13885/east_lothian_by_numbers_2024

¹⁶ See NRS figures for East Lothian at this link

<https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20241128124608/https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/east-lothian-council-profile.html>; and figures for the Ward in this ELC datasheet:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/34546/dunbar_and_east_linton_ward_snapshot_2022.pdf



The projections show that the working age population and those aged 15 and under will reduce as a percentage of the whole in both Dunbar and East Lothian, and 65+ will increase. NHS Lothian has identified that this may lead to more pressure on health and social care services; as well as an increase in caring responsibilities.

Economy and employment:

Economic activity:

Economic activity is a measure of whether people aged 16 and over are active participants in the labour market. 82.3% of the working age population were economically active in Dunbar & East Linton ward, higher than the East Lothian figure of 80%. The Scotland average is 74.8%.

- 50.8% of the working age population are full time and 18.4% are part time employees. This is higher than the East Lothian averages (51% and 17.5% respectively) and Scotland averages (49.2% and 15.5% respectively)
- There are also higher rates of self employed people in the Ward: 17.4% compared to 15.2% in East Lothian and 13% in Scotland.

The rates of unemployed people looking for work are the same as the East Lothian average (2.4%), but this is lower than the Scotland average of 3.3%.

In East Lothian there is a higher level of retirees than across Scotland as a whole; and the level of retirees in the Dunbar & East Linton ward is higher still. In the Ward, of those who are economically inactive, the proportion of retired people is 70.5%.

Types of occupations:

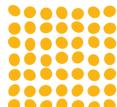
More people in the Dunbar and East Linton ward were employed in professional occupations- 24% in the Ward, compared to 21% across East Lothian and Scotland as a whole.

The proportion of people in elementary occupations is similar to the local authority and Scotland averages: 11% in the Ward; 10% in East Lothian; and 12% in Scotland.

The breakdown of employment across different industry sectors is comparable to the local authority area as a whole. 14% of people in the Ward work in Human Health and Social Work Activities; 10% work in the Wholesale and Retail trade; and 10% work in education.

Universal credit:

Universal Credit supports people who are on a low income or out of work. 13.5% of the working age population of the Dunbar & East Linton ward claimed Universal Credit in September 2024, which is below the East Lothian average of 14.8% (Scotland 16.4%).



This has increased since the pandemic however, and is 72.6% higher than the pre covid figure of 722 people in February 2020. The increase across East Lothian has been 73.8%; and across Scotland has been 121.9%.

Travel to work:

According to the 2022 Census figures on travel to work, 35.3% work from home – higher than the East Lothian figure of 33.9% and Scotland figure of 31.6%. 45.1% drive to work – similar to the local authority and Scotland averages.

10.9% commute than 2km from home. The next highest proportion is 9.5% - commuters travelling 40km to 60km to their place of work or study (suggesting that those commuters travel to Edinburgh).

Education:

A higher proportion of people in the Ward have Degree level qualifications or above: 40% in the Ward, which is above the East Lothian average (35%) and Scotland average (32%).

A lower proportion have no qualifications: 12% in the Ward, which is above the East Lothian average (15%) and Scotland average (17%).

Statistics relating to Dunbar Grammar School also compare favourably:

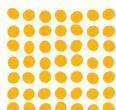
- 93% of Dunbar Grammar pupils achieved SCQF Level 5 or better, higher than the 82% for East Lothian and 88% for Scotland.
- The 87.3% Dunbar Grammar attendance rate was higher than 86% across East Lothian and similar to the 87.1% for Scotland.
- 96.1% of school leavers from Dunbar Grammar School were initially assessed as having a ‘positive destination’ upon leaving school. 43.4% of school leavers from this school went into Higher Education, the second highest percentage of all six schools in East Lothian.

Health:

Life expectancy:

Life expectancy across the Ward is higher than the Scotland averages, but this varies across the Ward. The variation in life expectancy across the ward’s intermediate zones is 5.3 years for females and 2.6 years for males.

Life expectancy	Dunbar East IZ	Dunbar West IZ	Rural East Linton	East Lothian	Scotland
Male	84.7	81.1	86.3	82.4	80.7
Female	77.7	77.4	80.0	78.7	76.5



Healthy life expectancy in East Lothian is estimated to be only 65.3 years: no data is available at Intermediate Zone level.

Early deaths:

There are also statistics relating to early deaths.

- Early deaths from cancer in the Dunbar West & East Linton Rural intermediate zones are above the East Lothian rate and above the Scotland rate.
- Early deaths from coronary heart disease in all three Intermediate zones in the ward are higher than the East Lothian rate (and in Dunbar West, higher than the Scotland rate).

Health related risk factors

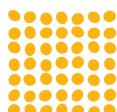
NHS Lothian statistics from 2023 show that:

- More people in East Lothian are overweight or obese, on average, compared to Scotland.
- 12.6% of people in East Lothian report smoking tobacco and/or e-cigarettes.
- East Lothian has the highest percentage of people who consume alcohol 4+ times/week in Lothian. NB East Linton & Dunbar East have lower rates of alcohol-related hospital admission than East Lothian & Scotland, but Dunbar West has a higher rate than East Lothian.
- Only 20.9% of people in East Lothian get the recommended amount of daily fruits and vegetables (5 portions).
- 55.5% of people in East Lothian report getting less than the recommended amount of physical activity (150 minutes/week).

Mental Health

Public Health Observatory statistics show that:

- Depression is more prevalent amongst patients at East Linton Surgery & Whitesands Medical Practice than in East Lothian and Scotland (depression per 100 population is 13 at East Linton; 9.4 at Whitesands; 6.4 in East Lothian and 7.9 in Scotland).
- Non-specified mental health issues are slightly more prevalent among GP patients in Dunbar & East Linton with the exception of Cromwell Harbour (1.3 per 100 population in Whitesands and Lauderdale, 1.2 in East Linton; 1.1 in East Lothian and 1 in Scotland).



- Deaths by suicide are higher in Eastern East Lothian than the local authority average (12.86 per 100,000, compared to 11.13 across the local authority area). This is slightly below the Scotland average.

Self assessments:

In relation to health generally:

- According to the East Lothian Residents Survey 2024 the majority of people in the Ward (69%) described their physical health as Very Good/Good, compared with the East Lothian figure of 63%.

In relation to mental health:

- According to the East Lothian Residents Survey 2024 73% of respondents in this ward stated their mental health as very good/good (East Lothian 71%).
- A more challenging picture emerges from the 2023 NHS Lothian Public Health Survey results for East Lothian, where:
 - 12.2% reported low life satisfaction.
 - 8.7% reported feeling lonely most of the time and 30% some of the time.
 - 14.6% experience low mental wellbeing and only 16.5% experience mental wellbeing.

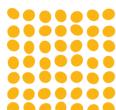
In relation to young people's attitudes to health:

- Further relevant information was gathered on young people's attitudes to health through the 2023/24 Students Evaluation of Experience Survey. Pupils were asked whether *"People at school help me to make healthy choices"*; *"In school, I can learn about healthy relationships including about friendships"*; *"am able to get information about my physical health in East Lothian"*; and *"have heard of the "Wellbeing Indicators"*.
- The Dunbar & East Linton schools were below the East Lothian average for the majority of questions. In particular, the Dunbar & East Linton schools had the lowest S2,S4 & P6 scores in East Lothian for *"People at school help me make healthy choices"* and the lowest S2 & P6 scores for *"In school I can learn about healthy relationships"*.

Unpaid care

11% of the population in the Ward are providing unpaid care – similar to the Scotland wide average of 11.7%. Of those, 21% are providing more than 50 hours of unpaid care a week.

Neighbourhood and place:



East Lothian Residents Survey

The 2024 East Lothian Residents Survey showed that 98% of people in the Dunbar and East Linton ward rated their neighbourhood as a ‘fairly good’ or ‘very good’ place to live, higher than the 93% across East Lothian as a whole.

The priorities for improvements where over 50% stated that they were priorities were: road and pavement repairs (71% stated this was a priority – similar to the East Lothian average); and activities for teenagers (53% - higher than the 33% across East Lothian).

The survey also asked people how they felt their neighbourhood had changed over the last 3 years. More people in this ward stated that things had stayed the same than across East Lothian as a whole (57% compared to 51%). 31% felt it had got worse – slightly below the East Lothian average of 33%. 11% felt it had got better.

16% of respondents in the Ward felt that they could influence decisions in their local area compared to 12% for East Lothian as a whole.

The survey also asked people about their level of satisfaction with the East Lothian Council Services they used. While this relates to Council services, 90% in the Ward reported satisfaction with Parks, gardens and open spaces – higher than 67% reported across the local authority area.

Environment and climate change

Perceptions around climate change were gathered through the East Lothian Residents Survey 2024. 78% of respondents in the ward reported that they understood what action they should take to help tackle climate control (77% across East Lothian).

CO2 emission estimates per capita are higher in East Lothian:

- In 2022, 10 tCO2e per capita, compared to the Scotland average of 4.8 tCO2e.
- In East Lothian between 2013 and 2022 there was a 23% decrease in the overall CO2 emissions, compared to a Scottish decrease of 31%.

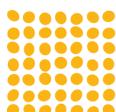
Deprivation

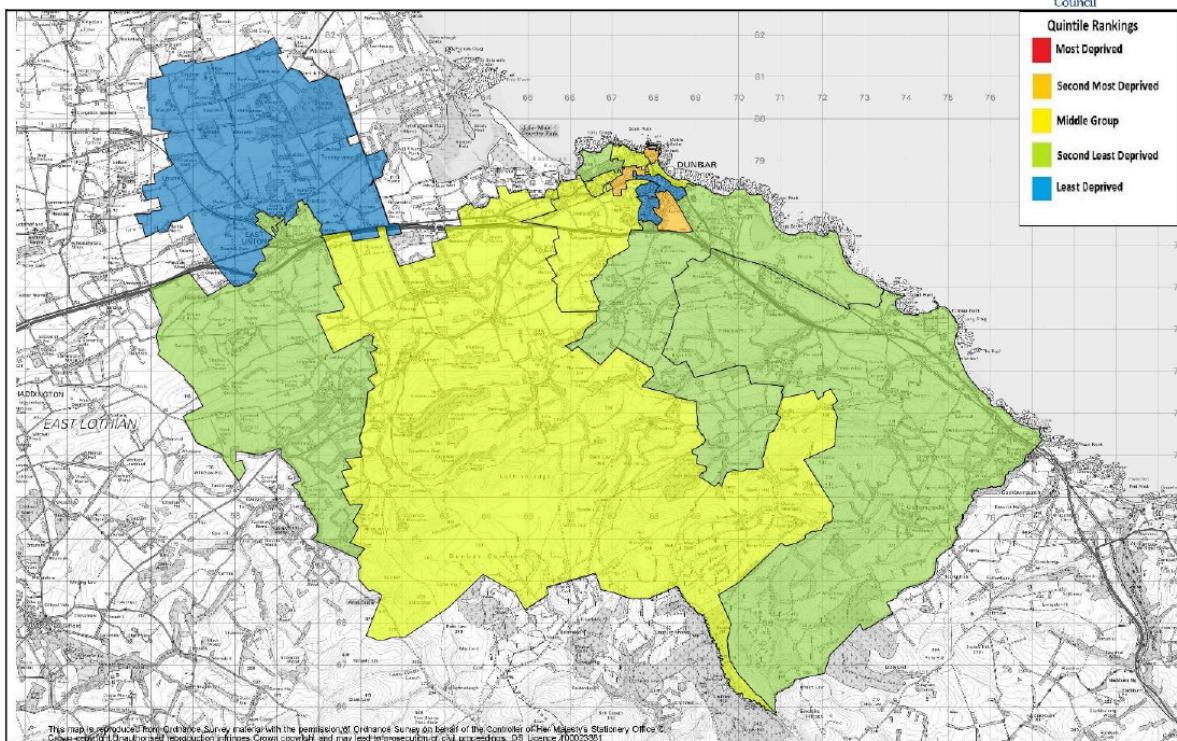
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas (called data zones). SIMD looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

SIMD is an area-based measure of relative deprivation: not every person in a highly deprived area will themselves be experiencing high levels of deprivation (or vice versa).

The image below shows the general levels of deprivation within the Ward.





None of the data zones in the Dunbar & East Linton ward are in the 20% most deprived in East Lothian or Scotland. Four data zones are within the 20% least deprived in East Lothian and Scotland.

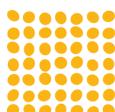
In relation to specific domains:

- Seven data zones in this ward are in the 20% most access deprived in Scotland.
- One data zone in the Dunbar & East Linton ward is within the 20% most deprived in East Lothian and Scotland in terms of the Education domain.
- No data zones in the ward are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland for the health domain, but one data zone is in the 20% most health deprived in East Lothian.

SIMD is area based however, and individuals within the area may still face deprivation. NHS Lothian has identified that as of June 2024, 720 children and young people under 16 in the Dunbar & East Linton ward were benefitting from Scottish Child Payments, which accounts for 23% of children in the ward (based on 2023 census data).

Food insecurity and fuel poverty

- According to the 2023 NHS Lothian Public Health Survey results for East Lothian:
 - 10.5% of respondents reported experiencing food insecurity in the last year.
 - 11.8% of respondents reported experiencing fuel poverty in the last year.



- Statistics from NHS Lothian show that 36% of households in East Lothian accessed a foodbank in 2022-23; and there has been a 200% increase in East Lothian Foodbank use since 2017.
- In relation to the Ward, there was a 114% increase in referrals to the East Lothian Foodbank (308 to 702 people) between 2020 and 2023. There was a 137% increase in number of children referred (106 to 251).

1.2 Policy fit

This section tests the project's alignment with public policy and strategy. Demonstrating a strong alignment helps to make the case for investment of public resources; and for partnership with public bodies and charitable funders. More generally, the underpinning research set out in these policies can provide further evidence of need.

National policy:

Scottish Government - National Performance Framework

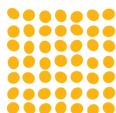
Provides a vision for Scotland with broad measures of national wellbeing. It is in the process of being revised, with proposed new outcomes laid before parliament in May 2024.

The Garden directly contributes to these national outcomes within the revised Framework:

National outcome:	Our contribution to the detailed outcome 'vision':
<i>Communities: We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe</i>	BCG will be community owned and primarily volunteer led: contributing to the vision that local people take responsibility for their community and engage with decisions about it. Our volunteering, outreach work and community events contribute to the outcome vision that Scotland has “friendly, vibrant and cohesive communities which value diversity and support those in need”.
<i>Environment: We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.</i>	Direct contribution to the outcome vision that communities “can engage with and benefit from nature and green space”. The Garden also supports carbon reduction efforts and biodiversity practice which are part of the outcome vision.
<i>Climate Action: We live sustainably, achieve a just transition to net zero and build Scotland's resilience to</i>	The Garden provides a healthy, diverse natural ecosystem and greenspace that supports biodiversity and builds resilience to changes in climatic conditions. It provides a means to engage the community around low carbon lifestyles and community resilience to the climate emergency.



<i>climate change. [New outcome].</i>	Through the Garden we promote sustainable food systems – distributing healthy produce for local consumption and supplying local businesses and the Dunbar Foodshare.
<i>Education: We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.</i>	The Garden provides formal and informal opportunities for skill sharing and learning about horticulture, regenerative land management and biodiversity. This ranges from informal skills shares and peer learning amongst our volunteers, through to accredited courses providing SQA qualifications and supporting dissertations from MSc students. Learning opportunities are intergenerational – from our nursery outreach, to work with elderly nursing home residents.
<i>Health: We are healthy and active.</i>	<p>We contribute to the vision of a whole system approach to promoting good health and activity. This relates particularly to food culture, where the Garden supports local, healthy food production and distribution.</p> <p>The therapeutic benefits of gardening and time in nature are well established: our volunteers report mental and physical health benefits of their engagement with the Garden. Community ownership will enable us to expand this work by developing a more formal approach to social prescribing.</p>
<i>Culture: We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely.</i>	We use history, traditional and rural culture to bring the community together: for example through events such as Wassailing in the orchard; growing and celebrating Scottish Heritage apple varieties. We support expression of diverse cultures by welcoming refugee families into our community – e.g. through growing heritage crops.
<i>Wellbeing Economy and Fair Work: We have a competitive, entrepreneurial economy that is fair, green and growing, with thriving businesses and industry and fair work for everyone [New outcome].</i>	<p>We support Inclusive and Democratic Business Models through supply of surplus food to the Community Carrot Community Benefit Society shop. We foster economic participation through production and sale of preserves using produce from the Garden; and through hire of our fruit pressing equipment to local producers and growers.</p> <p>We support people into work through delivery of accredited training, by providing volunteering opportunities to Duke of Edinburgh participants, and through outreach projects which provide training on childcare and dementia awareness to Dunbar Grammar pupils.</p>
<i>Children and Young People: We grow up loved, safe and respected so that</i>	<p>Through the Garden we encourage children to engage positively with the natural environment and to play their part in its care. Our Beehive Garden outreach project gives nursery children opportunities to grow food and plants and connect with nature.</p> <p>Qualitative feedback from parents who volunteer at the Garden has highlighted its positive impact on the physical and mental</p>



<i>we realise our full potential.</i>	wellbeing of their children (including children with additional needs).
<i>Care: We are cared for as we need throughout our lives and value all those providing care [New outcome]</i>	We help to reduce inequalities by supporting caregivers and care recipients – e.g. through visits by dementia carers, and through supporting adults with learning difficulties and their carers to volunteer (the Green Team). Work with Belhaven Grammar School through the Intergenerational Volunteers and Beehive Nursery outreach projects has provided experience and training in childcare and dementia awareness.
<i>Reduce Poverty: We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally</i>	We contribute to eradication of hunger through distribution of surplus produce to the Dunbar Foodshare, to volunteers at the Garden and to Dunbar Nursery. The Garden is inclusive and welcoming: everyone is treated with dignity and we encourage everyone to contribute and develop their skills. Qualitative feedback from our volunteers has commented on the friendly, welcoming, non-judgemental approach which supports people in moving forward in their lives.

Community Wealth Building

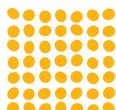
Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation sets out a vision to create a wellbeing economy: i.e. a society that is thriving across economic, social and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for all Scotland's people and places. The Scottish Government has adopted the internationally recognised Community Wealth Building approach to economic development as a way of bringing that about.

The Programme for Government published in September 2024 included a Community Wealth Building Bill within the legislative programme. The Garden (and community ownership of the site) contributes to these 'pillars' of Community Wealth Building:

- **Land and Property:** Growing social, ecological, financial and economic value that local communities gain from land and property assets. This specifically includes community ownership. Use of land to benefit the environment is also specifically included.
- **Inclusive Ownership:** Developing more local and inclusive enterprises which generate community wealth – so the wealth created locally and by local people stays in those communities. Ownership of the Garden by Sustaining Dunbar directly contributes – as does our support of the Community Carrot community benefit society.

Community Empowerment

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 aims to help empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings and by strengthening their voices in decision making around public services. The Garden contributes to these aspects:



- Part 5: **Asset transfer requests:** Scottish Government recognises that asset ownership can provide revenue for community organisations, making them more sustainable in the long term as well as giving local people a renewed sense of control over their communities, a real sense of a stake in the future of the places they live and work.
- Part 9: Allotments:
 - There is a requirement for local authorities to develop a **food growing strategy** for their area, including identifying land that could be used by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers. East Lothian Council has not yet finalised their food growing strategy, but community ownership of the Garden supports this national policy of community food growing.
 - Local authorities must maintain waiting lists and take reasonable steps to **provide allotments** if the waiting lists exceed certain trigger points. Our 2025 survey showed waiting lists for allotments at Thistly Cross – our communal and individual growing areas help to mitigate the impact of this shortage.

Scottish Government - National Planning Framework 4

The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is Scotland's long-term spatial strategy. All planning applications/ appeals must be determined in accordance with the provisions of NPF4 and the relevant Local Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

There are 33 policies, with the aim of creating 'sustainable' 'liveable' and 'productive' places. The Garden is aligned with these policies:

Sustainable places:

- 1. Tackling the climate and nature crises: which includes promotion of nature recovery and restoration: the Garden is directly aligned with this.
- 2. Climate mitigation and adaptation: i.e. supporting developments which minimise emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change.
- 3. Biodiversity: i.e. protecting biodiversity, reversing biodiversity loss, and delivering positive effects from development and strengthening of nature networks. Local community benefits of the biodiversity and/or nature networks should be considered.
- 5. Soils: this relates to protecting locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use. One outcome is that soils are healthy and provide essential ecosystem services for nature, people and our economy.
- 9. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings: one of the outcomes is that the contribution of brownfield land to nature recovery is recognised and opportunities for use as productive greenspace are realised where appropriate.



Liveable places:

- 15. Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: The intent is to create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home. This specifically includes access to parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens and opportunities for food growth and allotments.
- 20. Blue and green infrastructure: there is recognition that these can deliver multiple functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, biodiversity enhancement, flood prevention and water management. One of the outcomes is that communities benefit from accessible, high quality blue, green and civic spaces (like the Garden).

Productive places:

- 25. Community wealth building: This specifically includes support for community ownership and management of buildings and land.

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045; and Biodiversity Delivery Plan 2024–2030

The final version of the strategy was published in November 2024. The vision is that: “*By 2045, Scotland will have restored and regenerated biodiversity across our land, freshwater and seas. Our natural environment, our habitats, ecosystems and species, will be diverse, thriving, resilient and adapting to climate change. Regenerated biodiversity will drive a sustainable economy and support thriving communities, and people*”.

Underneath the strategy is a series of rolling delivery plans. The Garden contributes widely to the Strategy, but in particular to these actions:

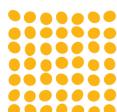
- Action 11: Identify, expand and enhance Nature Networks and ecological connectivity: with the intention of providing a range of opportunities for people, especially those in urban areas, to experience and connect with nature.
- Action 13: Enhance biodiversity in Scotland’s urban green and blue spaces: there is recognition that green and blue spaces within and around settlements – particularly in our urban areas – provide important places for both people and nature, many of which can be enhanced for biodiversity.

Related to biodiversity, activities at the Garden (especially our beehives) contribute to the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017–2027.

Local Food for Everyone: Our Journey

This is the Scottish Government’s local food strategy, published in 2024. The strategy recognises that local food production has enormous potential to enrich lives, improve diets, reduce food miles and keep value in communities. The Garden is an example of this in practice.

There is particular contribution to Pillar 1: “Connecting people with local food”:



- The people of Scotland value the food they eat, know where it comes from and how to prepare it. Our 2025 survey showed community support and demand for more outdoor cooking events and activities at the Garden.
- Greater opportunities for growing food within our local communities and local areas. This will be delivered through making land available and providing support for local community growing (e.g. through the Community Empowerment Act).
- Increased access to locally produced food for those on lower incomes and investing in local economies.

Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – updated December 2020

Plots out Scotland's pathway to meeting its emissions reduction targets. Legislation was passed in 2024 scrapping interim targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions but the aim of reaching net-zero by 2045 is still in place.

Community and place based climate action is central to the plan: to which Sustaining Dunbar and the Garden make a direct contribution. As an illustration, the Plan gives the positive example of a community garden which educates about food growing; assists the community to reduce food miles; supports offers support to help the residents learn more about how to reduce food waste and the links between food choices and climate change: Belhaven Community Garden also delivers these activities.

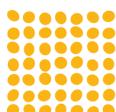
We also contribute to the strategic objective around public engagement – that *“taking action on climate change is normalised and encouraged in communities and places across Scotland”*.

A Connected Scotland: our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections

This is the Scottish Government's first national strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness. The vision is *“A Scotland where individuals and communities are more connected, and everyone has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships regardless of age, stage, circumstances or identity”*. Feedback from those engaging with the Garden has demonstrated its positive impact in supporting social connection and belonging, and tackling isolation (consistent with the garden projects highlighted in the Strategy as positive examples).

We contribute to these 'priorities' within the Strategy in particular:

- 1. Empower communities and build shared ownership: i.e. devolving more power to communities and working with the third sector.
- 3. Create opportunities for people to connect: the Strategy recognises that volunteering within communities is a powerful method of making social connections and building meaningful social relationships.



- 4. Support an infrastructure that fosters connections: this includes social care and self-directed support – our Intergenerational Volunteers project with the Day Centre directly contributes here.

Mental Health Strategy: 2017-2027

The vision for the Mental Health Strategy is of a Scotland “*where people can get the right help at the right time, expect recovery, and fully enjoy their rights, free from discrimination and stigma*”.

There is acknowledgement of the role the third sector can play in delivering a recovery-oriented and rights-based approach to mental health services in Scotland.

Local policy:

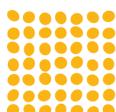
East Lothian Partnership: East Lothian Plan 2017-27

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires community planning partners to publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), or Community Plan. This provides a framework and sets out our shared priorities for East Lothian. The ‘statement of intent’ is that: “*We will work in partnership to achieve an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish*”.

Prevention and early intervention is a ‘golden thread’ which runs throughout the plan.

There are 3 themes: Prosperous; Community Minded; and Fair. We contribute to these outcomes in particular:

- Outcome 1.1 East Lothian people are working, are free from in-work poverty and are able to develop and improve their work skills. Our training for young people in particular fits with the objective of improving participation rates for 16-19 year olds.
- Outcome 2.1 East Lothian has strong resilient communities where people respect and support each other. Community justice is part of this – we engage the Community Payback team who help to mow parts of the Garden. Events and services at the Garden also contribute to the outcome that “*There will be an increased perception that people from different backgrounds can get on well together*”.
- Outcome 2.2 East Lothian people can live affordably and contribute to a thriving community life in a high-quality environment. This includes promotion of volunteering; work by partners with people in the community who help others; and using assets in partnership for the benefit of the people of East Lothian – all of which are achieved through the Garden.
- Outcome 3.2 People in East Lothian are enjoying healthier lives. This includes “work with communities to support healthy choices; as well as improvements to mental health support. Community ownership will enable us to develop social prescribing and current use of the Garden as a therapeutic space.



Dunbar & East Linton Area Partnership's Area Plan

This is one of six area plans which sits under the East Lothian Plan. Current area partnership plans are set out on their website¹⁷ - health is a priority for 2024/25. This includes a number of actions to which the Garden directly contributes:

- Improved access to healthy foods: DELAP will support projects that promote healthy eating, including cooking with fresh ingredients.
- Protection of our blue and green spaces for exercise: DELAP will support projects that promote exercise in the area (we intend to develop tai chi workshops etc in the Garden).
- Develop a more connected community with a positive attitude: this relates to connection and collaboration between individuals and groups. The partnership opportunities in this Business Plan shows our contribution here.
- Improved mental health for all ages, but especially young people: This refers to support for work being done to support positive mental health, and specifically includes Belhaven Community Garden.
- More social contact and friendship to support health – intergenerational activities: This includes support for any group wishing to establish ways of improving social contact in our community. We contribute through services such as Intergenerational Volunteers and our regular volunteering groups.
- Increased opportunities for people to be active, not just sport: This includes activities such as arts & crafts, drama, literature and similar activities that are not sports related – i.e. topics to be included in workshops hosted at the Garden.

East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025

Sets out the Council's vision and overall aims for a Net Zero Council and a Carbon Neutral East Lothian. It covers mitigation and adaption to climate change. There are seven outcomes. The Garden contributes widely to the Strategy – we pick out some particularly relevant outcomes below but the contribution of the Garden is not limited to these.

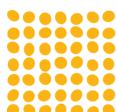
Note that **Belhaven Community Garden is specifically included as a case study** in relation to Local Food Growing. Sustaining Dunbar is also referred to the context of a circular economy.

Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council

- Key Priority Area 8: Our Schools and Young People: This specifically includes supporting and expanding pupils' engagement with and value of the local greenspace through Outdoor Learning. We are working with Dunbar Grammar to implement this.

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

¹⁷ <https://delareapartnership.org.uk/current-plans/>



- Key Priority Area 2: Thriving Town and Rural Centres. Includes a commitment to seek to provide and improve small green areas in town centres.

Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral:

- Key Priority Area 1: Our Natural Environment and Biodiversity: including actions relating to planting/retention of trees, wildflowers, habitat restoration etc. This is central to our work.

Outcome 7: East Lothian's Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change.

- Key Priority Area 1: Our Communities and Placemaking: The Strategy notes that *"Allotments and local food growing areas foster community involvement and interaction, and are beneficial to health and wellbeing and climate adaptation, linked to addressing food poverty and health inequalities"*. There is a commitment to prioritise and enhance these green spaces, food growing areas etc. There is also commitment to support cooking classes etc, to address food poverty, health inequalities and social isolation.
- Key Priority Area 2: Planning for New Developments: includes a commitment to work with partners to ensure provision of food growing space / community gardens in new residential developments.
- Key Priority Area 3: Local Food Growing: includes a commitment to support and encourage local food growing and wildlife gardening/rewilding.
- Key Priority Area 4: Awareness Raising and Engagement.

East Lothian Community Wealth Building Charter

Signatories and supporters of the charter include East Lothian Council, NHS Lothian, East Lothian Integration Joint Board/Health & Social Care Partnership, and Volunteer Centre East Lothian. The signatories commit to: *"to long-term collaboration between East Lothian Anchor Institutions, supporting shared Community Wealth Building goals to improve collective wellbeing and create a strong, resilient and inclusive local and regional economy"*.

Our alignment with Community Wealth Building principles (especially Land and Assets; and Plural Ownership) is set out above, but the East Lothian Charter also includes a sixth pillar to which we contribute: *"Climate Change: We commit to tackling the climate and nature emergency"*.

That includes an action to: *"Develop and support strategies to support sustainable communities and our natural environment and bio-diversity through, for example, capital investment projects, active travel, sustainable energy generation"*. A community owned Belhaven Garden will be an example of plural ownership which supports the natural environment and biodiversity.

NHS Lothian Charity: Green Health Programme Strategy 2023 - 2028



Provides a broad framework for the NHS Lothian Charity to achieve its vision of “realising the potential of the NHS outdoor estate, supporting enhancements and activities that benefit patients, visitors, staff and communities and help fight climate change and biodiversity loss”.

In broader context, the NHS in Scotland has a duty as a public body to further the conservation of biodiversity (Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act) and meet the climate change targets set out in the NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy.

The NHS Lothian Charity’s Green Health Programme Team leads the work to use the NHS estate as a health asset for patients, staff and the local community, and to encourage nature-based health activities. The strategy notes that the scope and potential of the green health agenda is such that it cannot be delivered in isolation – so the charity needs to work in partnership. **Sustaining Dunbar is specifically noted as a delivery partner.**

There are three “Assumptions and principles” underpinning the strategy: the Garden is strongly aligned to two of these in particular:

- When NHS sites are redeveloped or refurbished, the existing range and provision of on-site green health activities should continue in the new development with facilities and access as good as, or better than, those on the existing/old site. This supports retention of the Garden despite the redevelopment of the wider site.
- Opportunities will be actively sought to maximise use of the outdoor estate for formal and informal green health activities and services, including access and links with surrounding greenspaces and green networks.

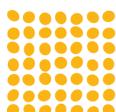
The Garden contributes to one of the two ‘final goals’ in the strategy: to “Have a positive impact on health in Lothians”; as well as to a number of the ‘Intermediate outcomes’ – such as “Patients, staff and communities experience an increased connection to nature; and “Patients, staff and communities experience reduced social isolation”.

NHS Lothian: The Lothian Strategic Development Framework

Sets out a 5 year plan for Lothian’s Health and Care system. Generally, the Garden contributes to the first ‘Specific proposal for change’ set out in the Strategy: that “We expect to increasingly emphasise prevention and self-management of disease, supporting this with community services and new technologies”. It also contributes to the proposal for change that “We will continue with our work to provide more services for people with mental health needs or learning disabilities in the community”.

The Strategy also includes an aspiration that NHS Lothian will be an anchor organisation: engaging with and influencing the wider social determinants of health such as housing, employment, income, sustainable placemaking and sustainable transport systems, in order to bring about population health improvement.

This includes considering whether and how NHS land disposal and redevelopment can support a larger series of broader public goals including population health improvement and reduction of health inequalities. The Garden contributes directly to health



improvement and reduction of health inequalities (general evidence for the health benefits are set out in the Green Health Programme Strategy, described above).

NHS Lothian Sustainable Development Framework and Action Plan 2020: Updated May 2023

The Action Plan broadens the scope of NHS Lothian's approach to sustainability. The Garden contributes to these aspects in particular:

- Adaptation to Climate Change: This includes enhancing the resilience of the NHS estate by maximising green space and biodiversity (which the Garden provides).
- Inequalities, Partners and Communities: Notes that food is fundamental to health and sustainability, and highlights work by local communities to tackle health inequalities and climate change together through such initiatives as community food projects, community gardens and 'Grow Your Own' initiatives. There is a commitment to further support to the community led health movement.
- Greener Primary Care – a positive example is given of a practice with a social prescribing champion working on green prescribing: we aim to develop this work at the Garden.
- **Greenspace and Biodiversity** – the plan notes that green space can make a significant contribution to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our staff, patients, visitors and local communities and is a key part of the NHS response to the climate emergency and to meeting Scotland's biodiversity commitments.

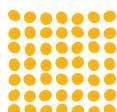
The Action Plan refers to the Garden as a positive example and commits to investing in it: "Community gardens at the Royal Edinburgh, Midlothian Community and **Belhaven Hospitals** provide vital resources for patients, staff and biodiversity. With the support of the Edinburgh and Lothian Heath Foundation we are investing in the future of these spaces".

East Lothian Friendly Food Network Good Food Charter 2022

Partners involved in the Charter include NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council. The Mission is that "The East Lothian Friendly Food Network believe that every person in East Lothian should have access to healthy, affordable, and good nutritious food. This food should be local and sustainably sourced where possible".

There are seven goals. The Garden contributes to these aspects in particular:

- 1. Promote healthy and sustainable food to the community: This includes communicating the importance of healthy and sustainable food; and celebrating culinary and cultural diversity while promoting a positive and inclusive food culture.
- 2. Tackle food poverty and food insecurity: centred on accessing good nutritious food founded on the principles of dignity and respect.



- 3.Tackle diet related illness and health: this includes engaging with children and young people – a focus of work at the Garden.
- 4.Build community food knowledge, skills and resources: this includes promoting local food initiatives, and increasing accessibility and opportunities to grow, cook and eat good food.
- 5. Promote a diverse and vibrant food economy: this includes an intention to celebrate, promote, and support local food producers and land resources.
- 6. Transform catering and food procurement: including to inspire and enable all food settings to source and supply healthy, seasonal, locally and ethically produced food.
- 7.Reduce waste and the ecological footprint of the food system: includes an action to promote redistribution of surplus foods initiatives.

East Lothian Partnership Poverty Plan: Priorities for tackling poverty 2024-2028

We are aligned in particular with two of the four key objectives:

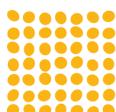
- A good life with access to the essentials: this includes access to quality food.
- Climate change ready: on the basis that climate change will impact vulnerable and low-income communities the hardest.

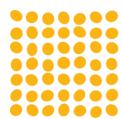
East Lothian Local Economy Strategy 2024-34

The vision is “building a sustainable, thriving place with fairness and community wealth at its heart. There are five key principles: Fairness; Community wealth building; Green & sustainable; Thriving & resilient; and Enterprising.

We contribute to these aspects in particular:

- Goal 3: Increase the number of socially and environmentally responsible businesses in East Lothian, expand plural ownership of the economy, and grow community wealth. This refers to the East Lothian Community Wealth Building Charter: our contribution to that is set out above.
- Objective 2: to provide high quality opportunities for people to learn, develop skills and grow their potential. Our Rural Skills course is most relevant here – agriculture and food & drink are identified as two important sectors.
- Objective 3: To build on East Lothian’s reputation as a great place to live, work, and learn by adopting a pro-business approach, seeking and supporting sustainable investment, and by empowering communities. This includes 20 minute neighbourhoods, to enhance the experience of living and working in the area.





Appendix BP2: Community survey analysis

A community survey ran between 7th February and 28th February 2025, receiving 346 responses.

The survey was promoted online through social media (including a boosted Facebook post to the Dunbar area), through Sustaining Dunbar's email lists, and on the Sustaining Dunbar and Save Belhaven Community Garden websites.

The intention behind the survey was to consult in more depth on the activities the community wanted take part in at BCG – building on the extensive 2024 consultations which showed support for community ownership of the site.

Respondents to the survey:

299 respondents are residents in Dunbar – this is 87% of respondents. 12% come to Dunbar for the school, shops etc, but live elsewhere; 8% work here; and 5% have a business here.

Respondents were asked "*If you are answering this survey on behalf of your household, how many people's views does this survey represent (not including yours)?*" The views represented include an additional:

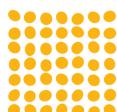
- 437 adults aged 18 or over.
- 45 young people 13-17 years.
- 99 children 0-12 years.

This means the survey responses represent the views of 927 people in total.

Views on community ownership:

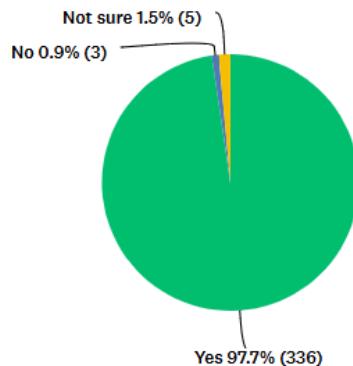
Support for community ownership

The survey showed almost universal support for community ownership – consistent with the findings of previous consultation exercises.



Overall, and if a viable future can be found for it, do you support the community purchase of the land from the NHS?

Answered: 344 Skipped: 2



The survey included space for respondents to expand on their answer, and 57 comments were received. The majority of comments referred to the importance of securing the future of the Garden when other green spaces in Dunbar have disappeared due to development:

- 19 comments referred to the value of the Garden as an asset for the community: e.g. *“The garden has, for some years, fulfilled a vital function as a place which is beneficial to both physical and mental wellbeing. It would be tragic if this vital resource was lost to the community”*.
- 15 comments referred to concerns of the Garden being lost to development: *“It would be a terrible loss if it was turned into housing. It's become oasis of calming productivity”*.
- 10 comments related to the importance of saving green space in the area: e.g. *“There has been an awful lot of housing built in the past few years and a loss of a great deal of Green, open space. I worry about wildlife locally and feel we need to do more to protect Green areas”*.

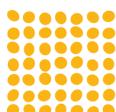
Other ideas included opposition to the closure/disposal of the hospital; suggestion that the site was bequeathed to the community so should be retained for community use; and suggestions relating to the asset transfer process.

No comments suggested opposition to community ownership, although 3 comments queried how the acquisition would be funded. This includes one comment which suggested the purchase from the NHS should be on a commercial basis.

Negative consequences from community ownership

The survey also asked *“If you are not supportive of community ownership of the garden, please let us know why”*. This was to determine whether there are any negative consequences from community ownership of the site (and how those could be mitigated).

6 comments were received, of which 5 were supportive of community ownership.



The only comment which was not supportive of community ownership was “*I think housing is a higher priority in terms of community need (especially affordable housing for rent)*”.

The other comments related to:

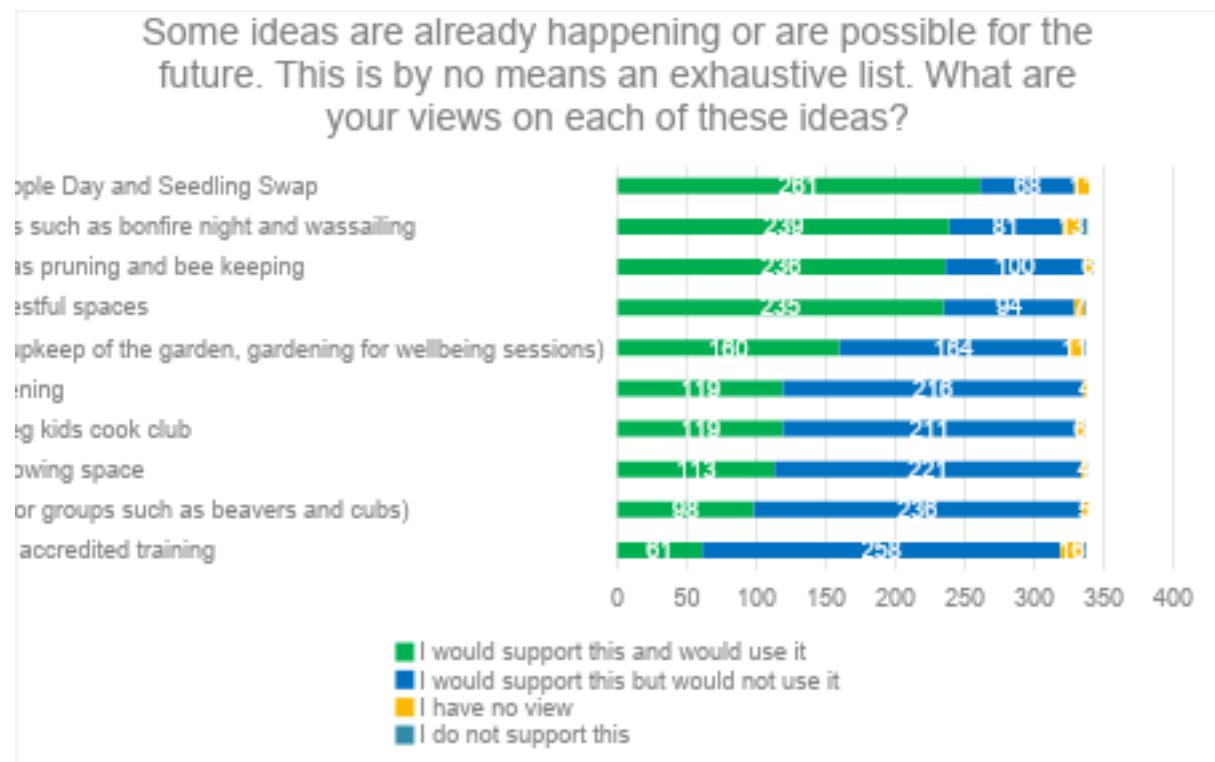
- The importance of securing the Garden as a community asset.
- The hospital was established for the benefit of the community, and the Garden continues this benefit.
- A direct transfer of the land would be more efficient than purchase (rather than a Scottish Government grant being used to fund purchase from another part of the public sector).

Support for services and activities at the Garden

Shortlist of possible services/activities

Respondents were given a shortlist of activities which could be delivered at the Garden.

There were options to select whether they (1) support the service and would use it themselves; (2) support but would not use it themselves; (2) do not support the service; and (4) are not sure.



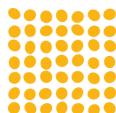
Each of the suggested ideas was supported by more than 90% of respondents. Less than 2% were opposed to any of the suggestions.

The activities with the largest proportion of people who would take part themselves were (1) events; (2) workshops; and (3) sensory garden restful spaces.



There was space for respondents to leave comments in response to each question. A summary of the comments is shown in the table below:

Service and number of comments	Themes in comments
Events such as Apple Day and Seedling Swap – 23 comments.	Comments were supportive. Previous apple days have been well received. There are benefits from bringing the community together and sharing knowledge.
Community events such as bonfire night and wassailing – 20 comments.	Comments were supportive. The community events are valuable for families, as well as those without access to their own garden.
Workshops such as pruning and bee keeping - 22 comments.	Comments were supportive. These are valuable in developing knowledge and learning from others.
Sensory garden restful spaces – 28 comments.	Comments were supportive. This is valuable to the community generally as a peaceful space to support positive wellbeing; but there is particular value for young people with additional needs, older people (including those with dementia) and carers.
Volunteering (e.g. upkeep of the garden, gardening for wellbeing sessions) - 40 comments.	Supportive in principle, although some are not able to volunteer at the garden at present. Comments noted the benefits of volunteering, including to wellbeing and confidence.
Therapeutic gardening – 18 comments.	Comments noted the therapeutic benefits of gardening.
Outdoor cooking e.g. kids cook club - 23 comments.	Comments were supportive – these are enjoyable and help to develop life skills. There were several offers to help deliver the sessions. One suggestion that a group of young carers could visit.
Allotments and growing space - 58 comments.	Comments were supportive, noting the benefits of keeping an allotment to health and wellbeing. A number of comments noted the long waiting lists for allotments at Thistly Cross, and there was interest in taking up allotment space or a raised bed at the Garden. This is beneficial for those without a garden or who could not manage a whole allotment themselves. There were also comments requesting that the Garden be maintained as an open community



	space, rather than divided into individual managed plots.
Tours and visits (for groups such as beavers and cubs) - 14 comments.	Comments were supportive –young people/children have enjoyed these sessions previously.
Employability and accredited training – 18 comments.	Comments were supportive, noting that these can benefit young people in particular.

Other suggestions

The survey provided space for respondents to suggest other uses or initiatives they would like to see developed on the land. 99 comments were received. While a range of ideas were suggested, these largely expanded on the ideas or themes shown in the sections above.

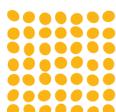
The broad themes which were most frequently suggested were:

- Biodiversity and using the space to support wildlife (mentioned 11 times). E.g. *“Biodiversity e.g. native wildflower pollinator meadows; perhaps a small area of woodland; a pond”*.
- Community wide events, including performance, music, or seasonal events (mentioned 10 times): E.g. *“Outdoor theatre / music performances and temporary art installations?”*
- Growing related suggestions, including relating to organic growing, composting, seed shares (mentioned 10 times): E.g. *“Developing seeds and plant which thrive in Dunbar’s climate/soil”*.
- Workshops – relating to growing, crafts, mediation/ mindfulness etc (mentioned 10 times): E.g. *“Photography workshops (macro photography) and small bird-watching clubs or other environmental for the kids and adults as well”*.
- Cooking related suggestions – there were suggestions of a pizza garden, tea garden, fruit tasting, apple cider or vinegar making. (mentioned 8 times) e.g. *“Community kitchen to inspire and demonstrate how to cook produce from the garden”*.

Other suggestions included growing or play space for children; a meeting space (e.g. a summer house); and food distribution for sale – potentially linking with the Community Carrot and food bank.

One comment was received noting *“I would prefer to see the site sold and used for housing to release key capital funds for NHS Lothian. It is in a good location for housing, with good public transport”* (although this is in the context of 98% support for community ownership of the Garden).

Income generation: workshops at the Garden



Respondents were asked what they might be willing to pay for workshops at the Garden:

How much would you expect to pay for workshops?

Answered: 333 Skipped: 13

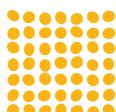


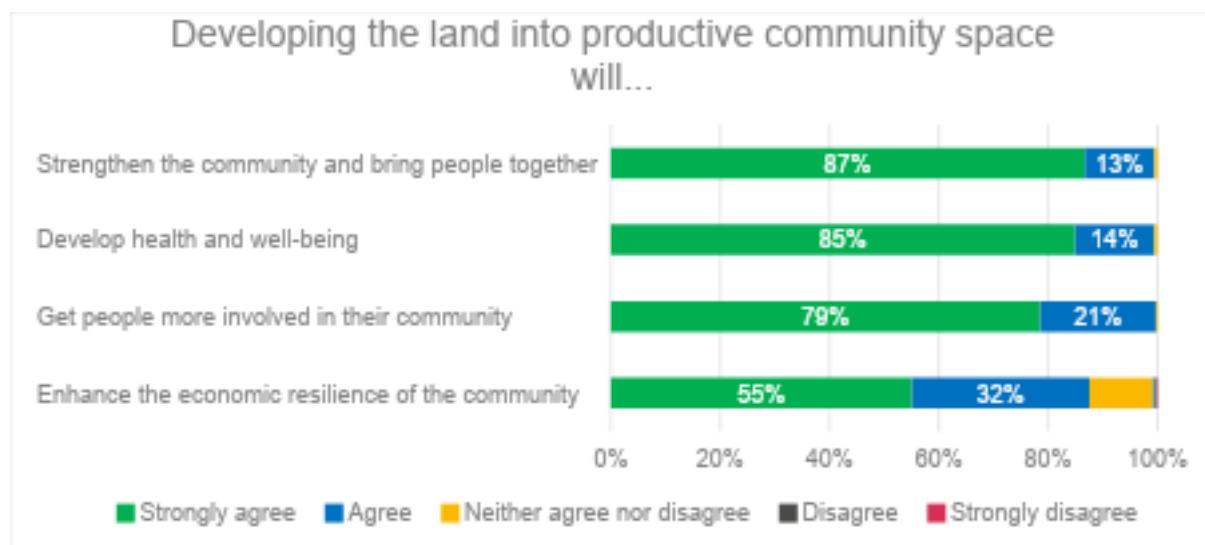
- Taster sessions: the largest proportion would be willing to pay up to £10 (42%). 34% would expect these to be free. 24% would be willing to pay between £10-20.
- Half day workshop: the largest proportion would be willing to pay £10-20 (40%). 32% would be willing to pay £20-50. A smaller proportion (25%) would be willing to pay up to £10.
- Full day workshop: the largest proportion would be willing to pay £20-50 (44%). Similar proportions indicated they would be willing to pay £10-20 (25%) or £50-100 (24%).
- Weekend residential in partnership with local businesses: the largest proportion of respondents would be willing to pay over £100.

Impact of community ownership

Respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with the following statements: 'Developing the land into productive community space will...'.

The majority of respondents strongly agreed with all statements. There was near universal agreement on three statements, and 87% of respondents in agreement with remaining statement (relating to economic resilience).

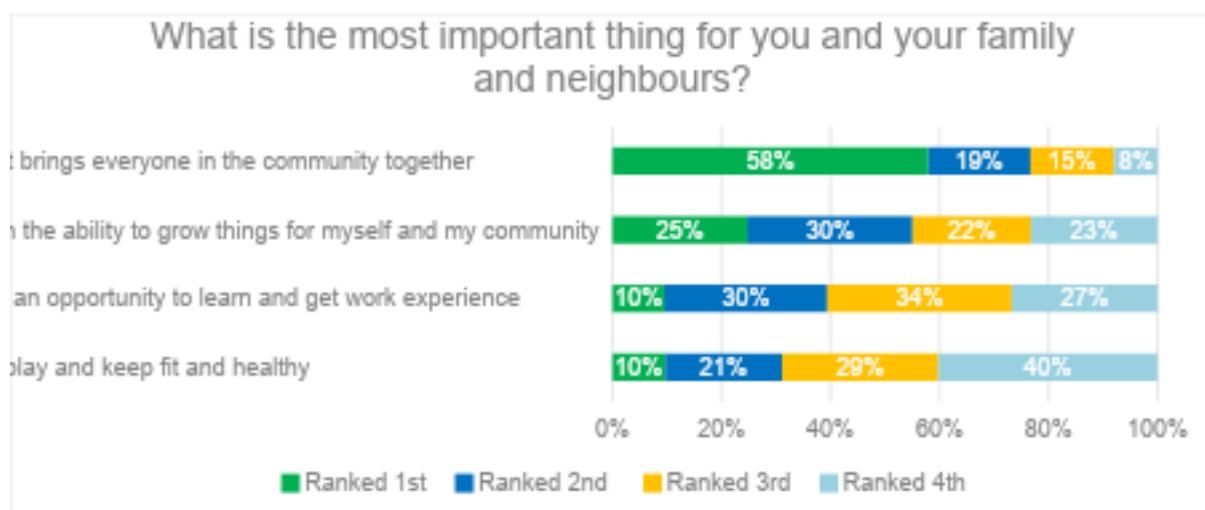




Guiding principles

Respondents were asked to consider 4 statements and rank them in order of importance.

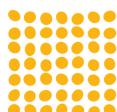
The most important statement (ranked 1st by 58% of respondents) was “An attractive space that brings everyone in the community together”.



Interest in future involvement

The survey showed interest in future involvement:

- 211 people would like to be kept up to date with what is happening.
- 73 people would like to be involved in some of the projects at the Garden.
- 56 people are interested in joining Sustaining Dunbar as a member.



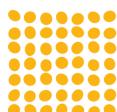
- 18 people are part of a group which would like to discuss ideas further.

Final comments

The survey included an opportunity to leave final comments. 60 comments were received, mostly relating to either pricing of workshops or the importance of saving the garden.

- 21 comments related to the cost of workshops – these need to be inclusive and affordable so they are accessible to everyone in the community. Appropriate pricing will also depend on the nature of the workshop. There were suggestions of a pay it forward scheme, tiered pricing, or ‘pay what you can’ approach. E.g. “*I hope workshops would be priced affordably. Some free placements too as being inclusive is key. You could offer more expensive wider offered workshops as well, but cost is everything if trying to encourage and bring in community. This space has so much potential. The grounds could be extended*”.
- 16 comments reiterated the importance of saving the Garden as a community asset and green space. E.g. “*Very much hoping this will be kept as green/ garden space for the community. Dunbar has already lost so much of its immediate surrounding greenspace and needs to preserve what is left*”.

Other comments related to interest in future involvement, the benefits of the garden as a therapeutic and educational space, and that the site was bequeathed for community benefit.



Appendix BP3: Capacity to deliver

3.1 Board and steering group experience

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:

Jo McNamara, Chair: Former Community Development Officer and a director of North Light Arts, an environmental arts organisation working with nationally acclaimed artists and the community.

Tim Greene, Treasurer: A statistician with experience of consultancy, project management, epidemiology and retail.

Jacquie Bell: A retired social worker, community activist and experienced trustee of environmental and community based projects.

Philip Revell: Philip sits on the Garden Steering Group – see below for his profile.

Duncan Smeed: A retired university lecturer and Chair of both the John Muir Birthplace Trust and the Friends of John Muir's Birthplace.

Mark James: A community activist, everyday cyclist, bike fixer, cycling rep on Local Access Forum, Dunbar Community Councillor, and singer.

Simon Wasser: A town planner with a background in sustainable transport. Passionate about nature, food, cycling and music.

Kirsty Macleod: An ocean advocate with a background in marine research, outreach and now works in scrutiny of Scottish environmental legislation and policy – also an avid singer.

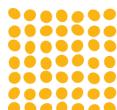
Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group

Philip Revell: an independent researcher and social/community activist with over 45 years of wide-ranging experience of initiating, supporting and managing community-led development and climate action projects. Founding director of the Scottish Communities Climate Action Network and on the board of Sustaining Dunbar.

Naomi Barnes: 12 years' experience volunteering at the Belhaven Community Garden and steering group coordinator since 2022.

Founding director of Tyningshame Community Farm, set up in 2023. 25 years' experience teaching in secondary education; 5 years on the board as secretary of a community enterprise (Community Carrot); 2 year horticultural qualification; and 4 years' experience working freelance for Sustaining Dunbar as a project officer, managing 4 local projects.

Diana Greene Facilitator of the BCG Steering Group, using transferrable skills acquired during her working life as a GP Partner. Since retirement to Dunbar six years ago Diane has personally experienced the social and gardening benefits of involvement in BCG.



She chairs Dunbar Dementia Network, and is Health Lead for 'East Lothian Horizons' Community Refugee Support Group: so can vouch for the benefits of the Garden for the wellbeing and social integration for members of these different groups.

Sarah Turnill: Registered general nurse 38 years, farmer's daughter. Interests in sensory gardening and benefits of being outdoors.

Keep Scotland Beautiful In Bloom judge and It's your Neighbourhood assessor since 2013. Chairwoman of Dunbar in Bloom since 2012, winning Gold for the Coastal town in 2019. Long-standing volunteer at BCG and steering group member since 2022. Newly appointed garden Coordinator at Our Community Kitchen, Haddington focussing on well-being, isolation and loneliness.

Graham Turnill: Retired Halifax Bank manager after 33 years service. Always interested in gardening, Graham has grown his own vegetables for well over 40 years.

Involved in BCG for 8 years and a member of the steering group since 2022. Involved in Dunbar in Bloom for 12 years and currently Vice Chairman.

Bob Fleet: An ex Diagnostic Laboratory manager with 40 year's NHS experience. Former chairman of Wooplaw Community Woodland the first in Britain. An active member of several community groups in Dunbar and a keen vegetable grower having previously been an allotment holder. Chairman and Trustee of Dunbar Community Shed. Bob coordinates the plots which have individual volunteers growing on them.

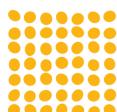
Lizzie Swarbrick: An academic specialising in Scotland's medieval churches. A committee member for the National Lottery Heritage Fund and trustee of Scotland's Churches Trust. Lizzie joined BCG in lockdown and became a steering group member in 2022. Passionate about the natural world, its therapeutic benefits, and its role in place-making. Lizzie has significant mental health issues and the growing community at BCG has been a lifeline.

3.2 Skills audit analysis

Skills audit survey

An online skills audit survey was circulated to the Sustaining Dunbar trustees and members of the Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group. This was to consider the skills and experience within the organisation and whether these need to be strengthened in order to take ownership of Belhaven Community Garden.

Respondents were asked to rate their skills in a number of areas, using the scale below:





It is important to note that responses were self-evaluations and are not objective.

Responses were received from all 8 trustees, and 5 members of the Steering Group. These are presented separately in the tables below. Ultimately the trustees have responsibility for the charity and need the right skills to provide effective oversight; but the Steering Group also has an important role in managing some practical day to day aspects of the Garden.

Overview and key findings:

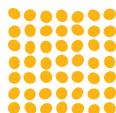
The skills audit shows strong skills and experience across both the board and Steering Group –consistent with the context that the Garden has operated successfully for 12 years.

No skills gaps were identified indicating either that the charity does not have the capacity to take on and develop the Garden; or that there is overreliance on individuals in relation to key aspects of the charity. There is breath of experience across both the trustees and management of the Steering Group.

Areas of particular strength include liaising with strategic partners, relationship building and working with other third sector groups: which will be important to deliver the planned growth of learning and therapeutic activities at the site. Fundraising to deliver these is also a strength.

While these are not skills gaps that would compromise the project, there is potential to further grow capacity in relation to:

- Asset development: While there is some good working knowledge here, strengthening skills would be valuable given the planned development of outdoor classroom space and car park in subsequent years. Community learning exchanges with other community garden projects would be useful to understand how they have improved infrastructure at their sites.
- Marketing .. Marketing and communications have been successful to date (evidenced by the overwhelming response to our petition to save the Garden), but there is room to further grow skills here in the Steering Group – to promote our community events, workshops and other activities at the Garden as these grow.



Skills relating to the Community Garden project

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:



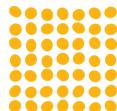
█ 0 - no exp... █ 1 - basic lev... █ 2 - limited ... █ 3 - average ...
█ 4 - good wo... █ 5 - high lev...

Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



█ 0 - no exp... █ 1 - basic lev... █ 2 - limited ... █ 3 - average ...
█ 4 - good wo... █ 5 - high lev...

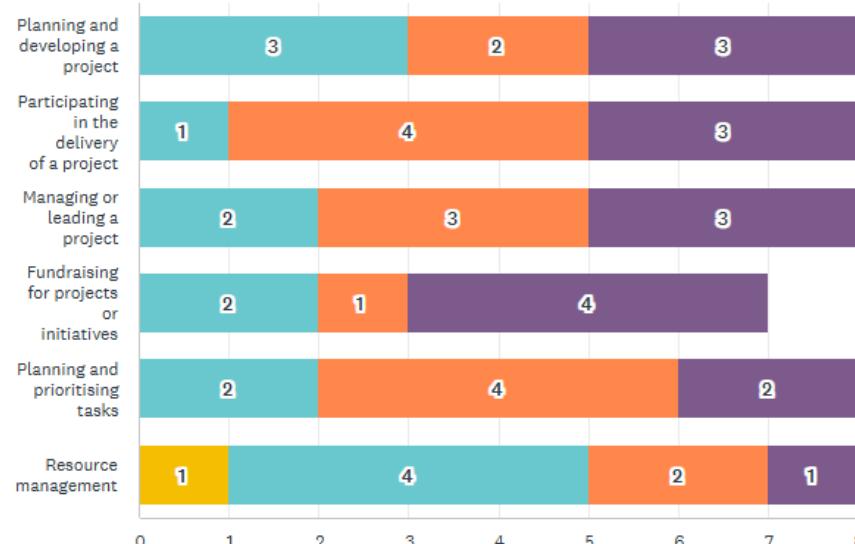
- Collectively there are six respondents with good working knowledge in relation to horticulture and growing, with four others bringing average working knowledge. This is consistent with the ethos of the project: volunteers bring and share their growing skills, and everyone learns together. Again, it should be noted that the Garden has operated for 12 years, delivering annual harvests and an increase in biodiversity.
- Three respondents across the group bring good working knowledge of asset development, with four others bringing average working knowledge. Strengthening skills here would be valuable given the planned development of a carpark and outdoor classroom space. Community learning exchanges with other community garden projects which have developed their infrastructure could also be helpful.



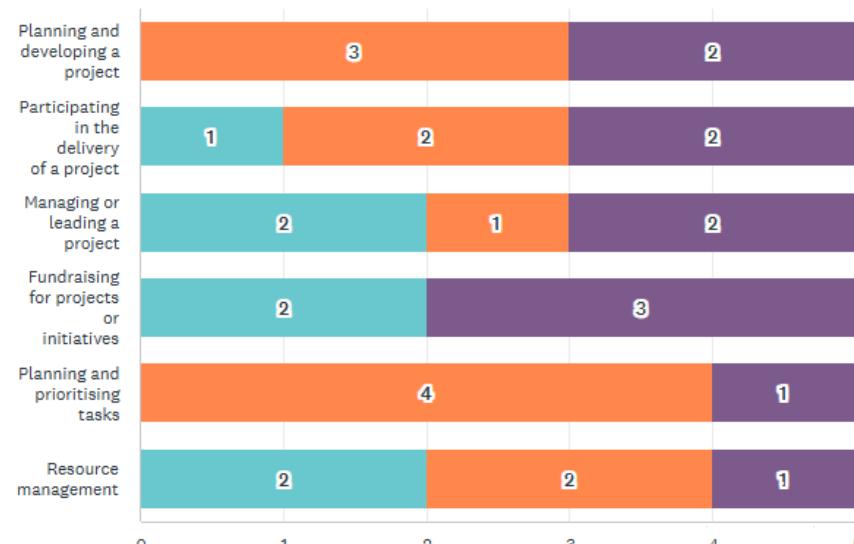
- Skills in relation to delivering a learning programme are strong. Self evaluations in relation to delivering an employability programme or mental health support programme were a little lower, although the intention is to secure funding for a staff member in later years to deliver these. The skills audit responses suggest sufficient skills and experience to provide effective oversight.
- Two additional comments were received from respondents, noting experience in academia and in land management for a 60 acre woodland (including working with volunteers and people from diverse groups).

Projects and initiatives

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:

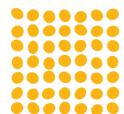


Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



█ 0 - no experience
█ 1 - basic level
█ 2 - limited
█ 3 - average
█ 4 - good
█ 5 - high level

█ 0 - no experience
█ 1 - basic level
█ 2 - limited
█ 3 - average
█ 4 - good
█ 5 - high level



- Both board and Steering Group reported strong skills in these categories. Fundraising for projects is a particular strength.
- Three additional comments were received from respondents, noting extensive experience in the third sector, including founding and developing community initiatives.

Business planning and management

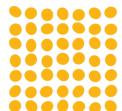
Sustaining Dunbar trustees:



Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



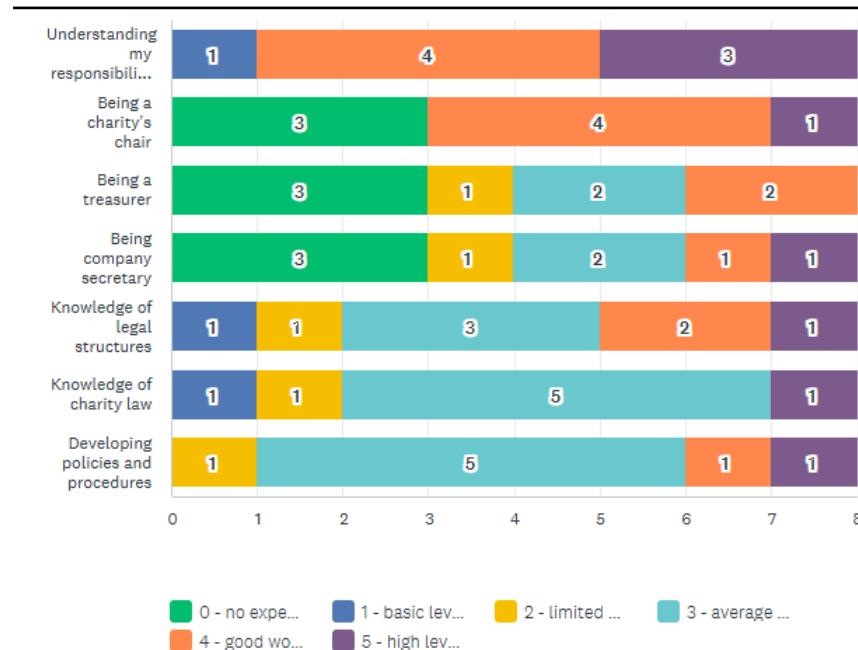
- Again, strong skills were reported across both board and steering group. Writing business plans is a little weaker, but support has been commissioned for this plan through the Scottish Land Fund, and further support could be secured through the Just Enterprise programme.



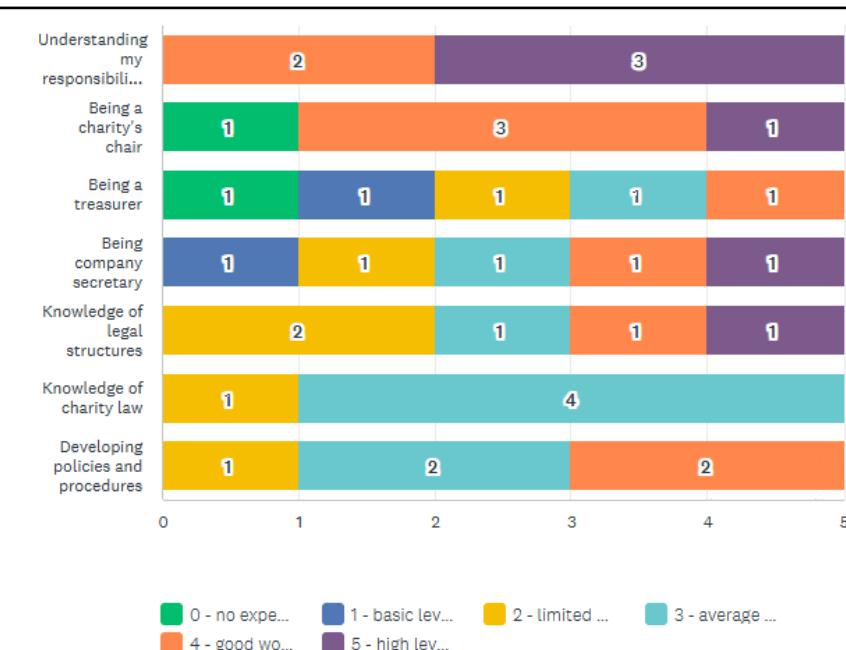
- Liaising with strategic partners and relationship building is a particular strength – reflected in the letters of support received from partner organisations in favour of community ownership.
- Three additional comments were received, noting (1) extensive experience in project management/delivery of third sector initiatives; (2) community development; (3) facilities management; and (4) oversight of a business.

Governance

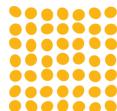
Sustaining Dunbar trustees:



Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



- This is most relevant to the Sustaining Dunbar trustees; although understanding of governance also supports the functioning of the Steering Group which will operate under a scheme of delegation set by the trustees.

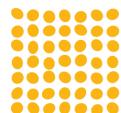


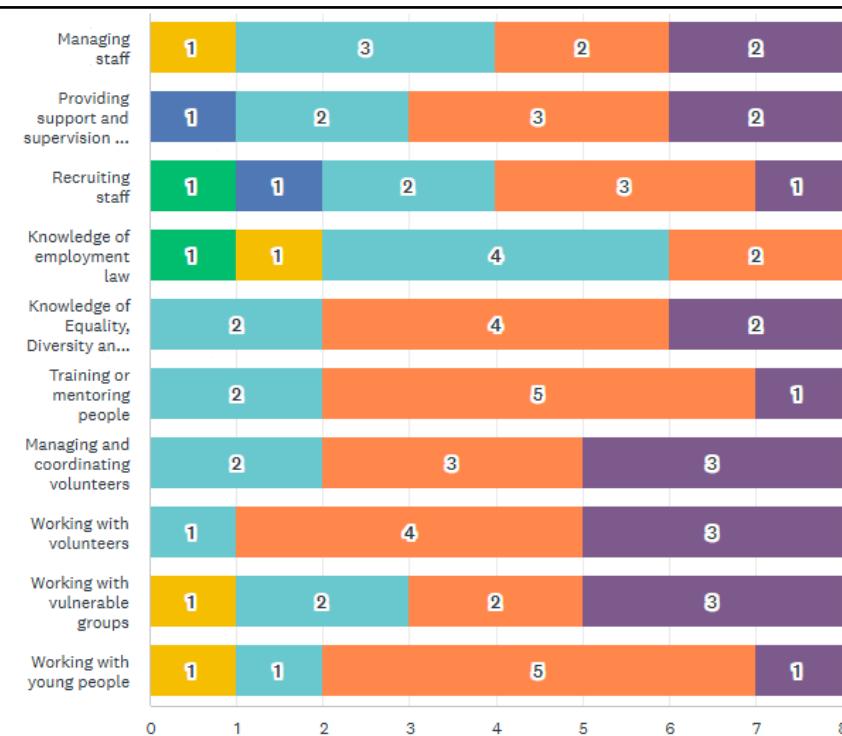
- Trustees' responses indicate strong understanding of their responsibilities as trustee. One trustee reported 'basic' level understanding: peer support or learning would be valuable here. Knowledge of charity law is 'average' across the group – there is room for development but this is not a skills gap.
- Skills /experience in relation to the three office bearer positions are sufficient – indicating there is not overreliance on a single trustee with the skills to fulfil these positions.
- Five additional comments were received, noting experience as a trustee, as well as experience as chair, and in fulfilling company secretarial functions.

Working with people

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:

Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



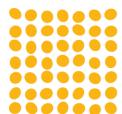


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█ 4 - good wo... █ 5 - high lev...



█ 0 - no exp... █ 1 - basic lev... █ 2 - limited ... █ 3 - average ...
█ 4 - good wo... █ 5 - high lev...

- Strong skills were reported across the board and the Steering Group – especially in the categories around working with and supporting volunteers. There are also strong skills in respect of working with vulnerable groups.
- Knowledge of employment law is sufficient, although there is scope to strengthen a little here – given that the intention is to fundraise for a dedicated member of staff in later years. Support with this is available from SCVO and ACAS. Note that Sustaining Dunbar already has a track record of managing employees.



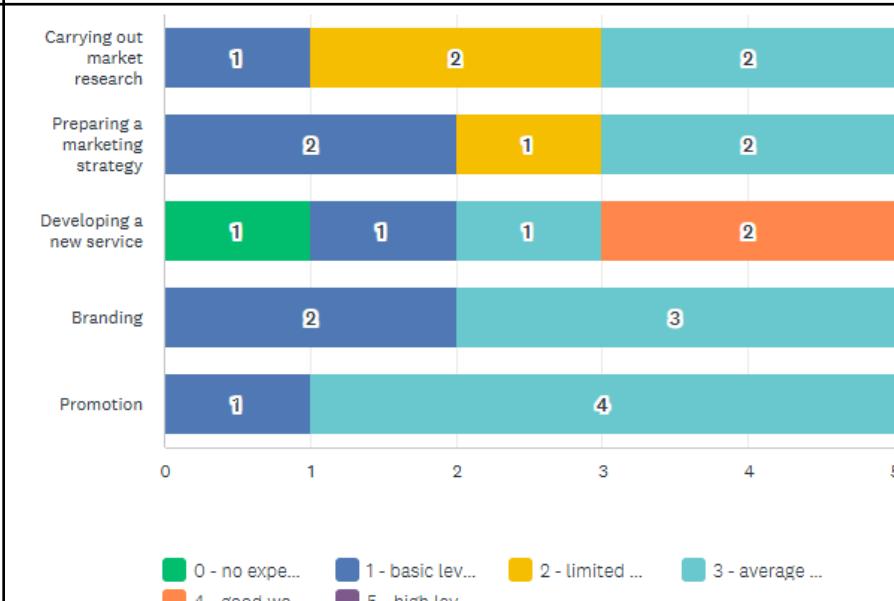
- Three additional comments were received, which noted experience in community development and social work; as well as experience as trustee of a charity which employs staff and engages volunteers.

Marketing

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:



Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



- Marketing skills are reasonable, although a little weaker than some of the other areas in the survey. There are at least two trustees with good working knowledge (as a minimum) in each of the categories – so there is a reasonable baseline. Steering Group members mostly reported average working knowledge.
- This is an area for development across the steering group in particular - the business plan sets out how we will deliver community wide events, workshops and other activities to the Garden which draw in people from across the community. Our marketing has



been successful to date (evidenced by the overwhelming response to our petition to save the Garden), but there is room to further grow skills here.

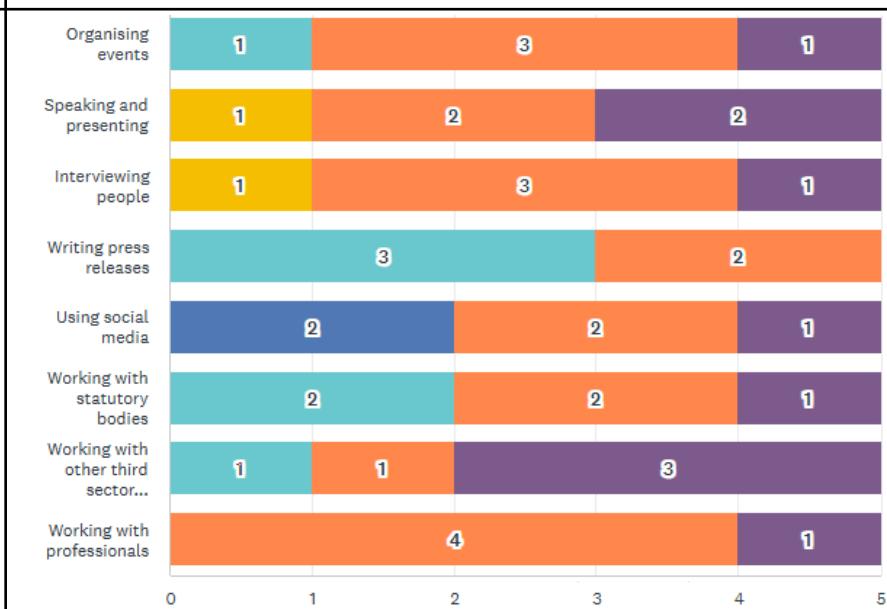
Communications

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:



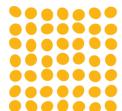
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Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



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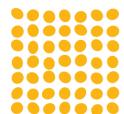
- Communications skills are strong across both the board of trustees and the Steering Group. Working with other third sector organisations was reported to be a particular strength.



Finances

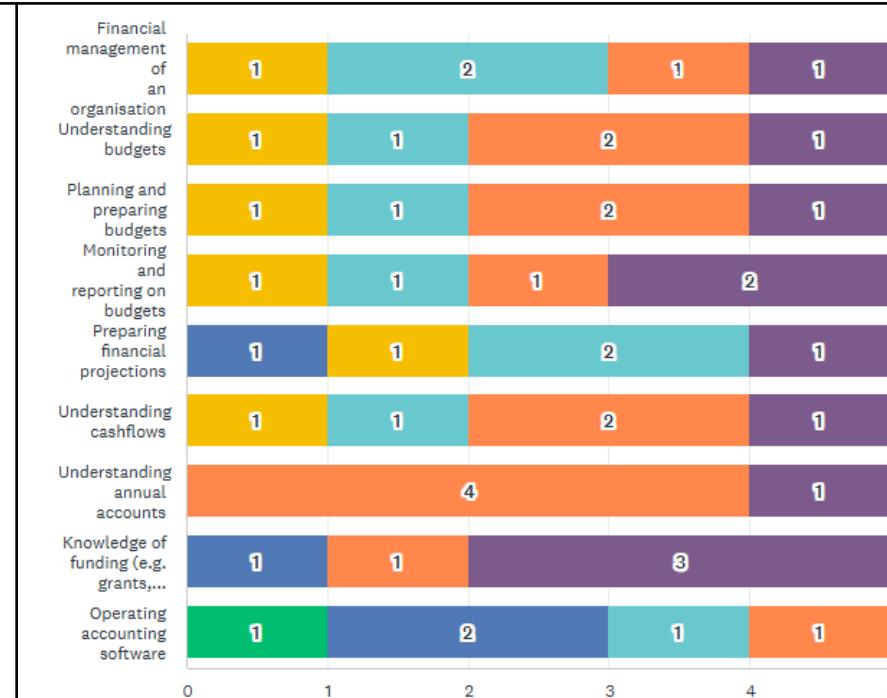
Sustaining Dunbar trustees:

Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



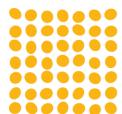


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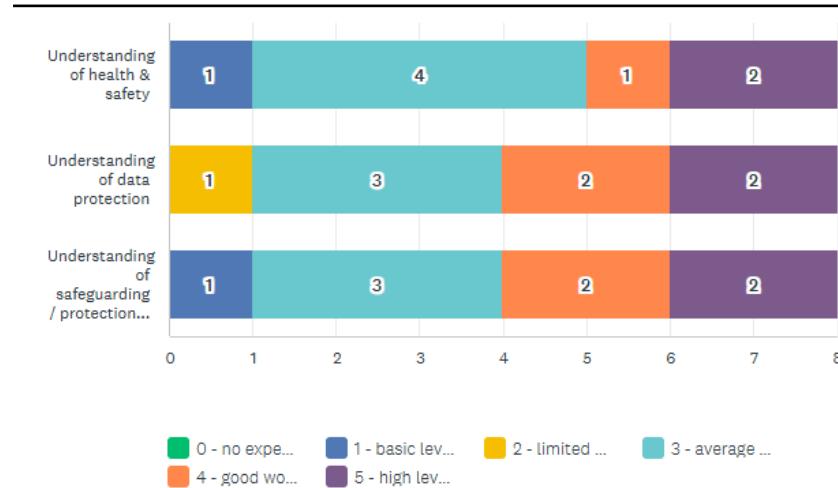
- Generally, the responses show a sufficient level of skills/expertise to manage the Garden's finances post-acquisition.
- This area is particularly important for the trustees, who are collectively responsible for the charity. Skills in relation to financial management of an organisation are sufficient – one trustee reported expertise; two reported good working knowledge; and three reported average working knowledge. Two trustees reported either limited or basic skills – again, some peer support may be valuable here to ensure that all trustees are confident in respect of the charity's finances.
- This is also the case in relation to understanding cashflows: skills are reasonable across the board, although one trustee reported no experience. Some shadowing or peer learning could help to build skills here.



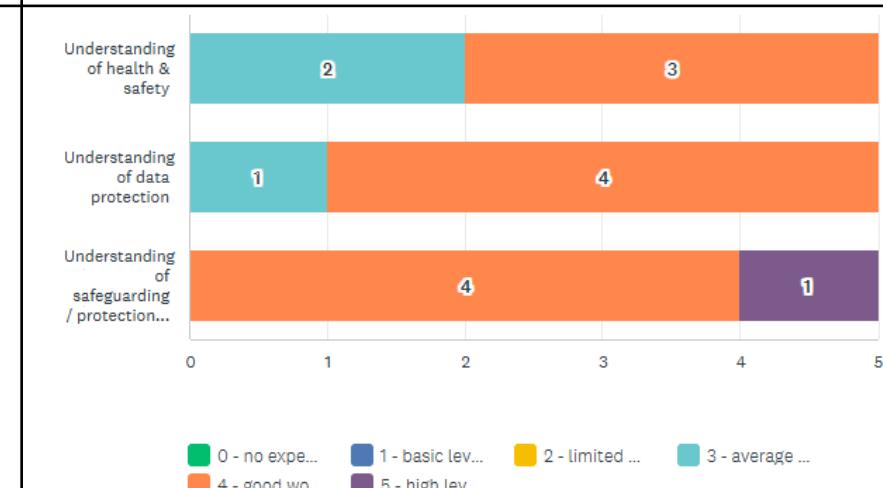
- Finance skills amongst Steering Group members are strong – especially in relation to monitoring and reporting on budgets.
- Knowledge of funding is a particular strength across both board and Steering Group.

Compliance

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:



Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:

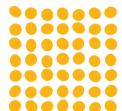


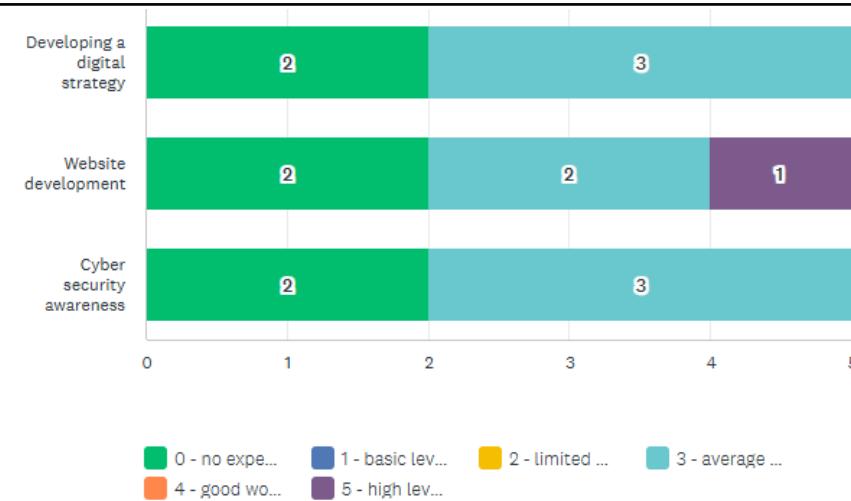
- Skills are mixed across all respondents, but there are two trustees with expertise in each of health & safety; data protection; and safeguarding. Steering group members reported good working knowledge.

Digital and ICT

Sustaining Dunbar trustees:

Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:



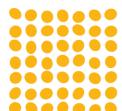


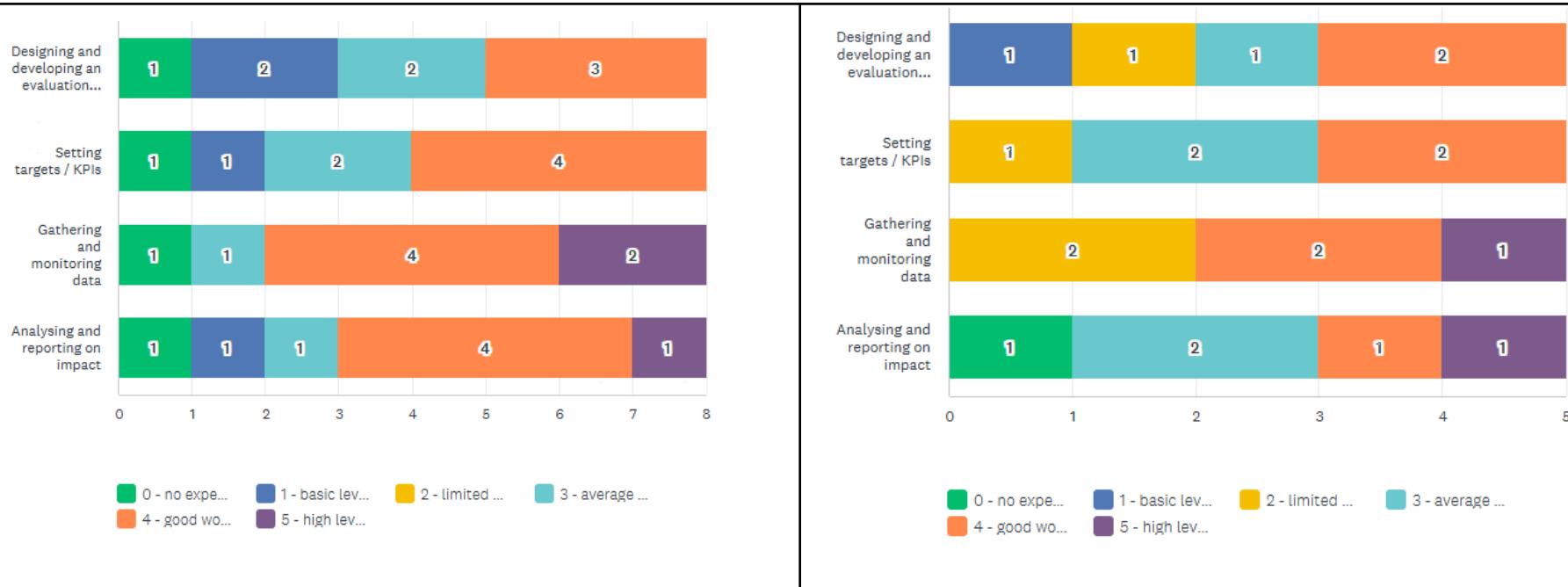
- Overall, this is the weakest area, although less fundamental to Belhaven Community Garden.
- At the same time, two respondents reported expertise in relation to website development (evidenced by the creation and management of the Save Belhaven Garden Website). There is also one trustee with expertise and one with good working knowledge in respect of cyber security awareness.

Impact assessment

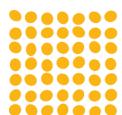
Sustaining Dunbar trustees:

Belhaven Community Garden Steering Group members:

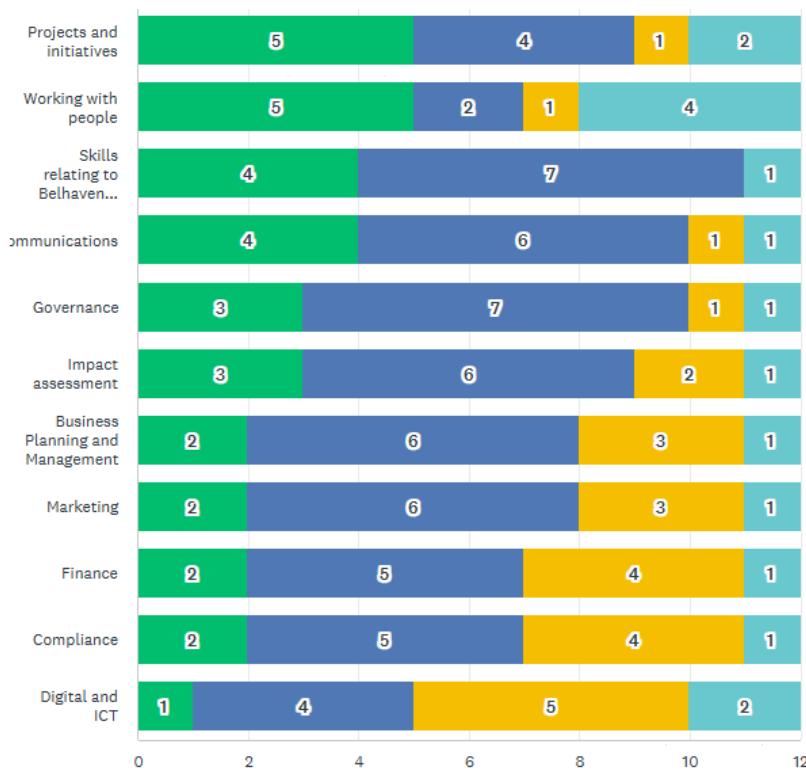




- This is an area for development in respect of Belhaven Community Garden generally – so the positive impact of the project is demonstrated and celebrated. Skills across both board and Steering Group are sufficient to do this: there is good working knowledge in each category, and at least one person in both groups with expertise in relation to gathering/monitoring data and analysing/reporting on impact.
- Four additional comments were received, which noted professional experience as a statistician; and integrated impact assessments in a healthcare setting.

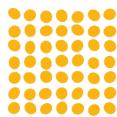


Interest in developing skills

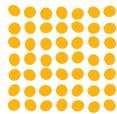


Very interested Quite interested Not interested Already have

- The majority of respondents expressed interest in developing their skills in each of these areas (there was less interest in digital and ICT – which is less fundamental to the Garden project).
- The area in which respondents were most interested in developing skills was in relation to the Belhaven Community Garden project specifically – indicating enthusiasm to further build capacity as the Garden is taken into community ownership.
- The areas with the largest number of respondents “very interested” in developing their skills were Projects and Initiatives; and Working with People (5 for each).
- Respondents were asked to indicated on average, how many hours (in total) over the next 12 months they would be willing to spend in developing their skills. 4 would be willing to spend over 30 hours; 3 would be willing to spend between 16 and 40; and 4 would be willing to spend between 6 and 15 hours.
- Additional skills brought by respondents which are not covered above include:
 - Experience in academic research.
 - Experience in environmental volunteering.
 - Understanding of environmental legislation and policy



- Skills relating to arts and crafts.
- Strong connections with public and third sector groups in Dunbar and East Lothian



Appendix BP4 – Funding options

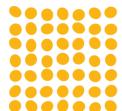
4.1 Capital funding

Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
Mushroom Trust ¹⁸	Typically grants of up to £5,000 but larger donations may be available.	Funds creation and improvement of greenspaces, particularly in urban environments, through an emphasis on horticultural aspects. There is a particular emphasis on Edinburgh and the Lothians. Has funded landscaping designs for long term planting, developing allotments, enriching planting, improving public parks and play areas, and planting community gardens and orchards.	Encourages applications for the initial costs for design work in connection with new projects where this has not yet been considered.	The deadline for annual donations is 31 st March each year.
Wooden Spoon ¹⁹	No minimum or maximum, although the guidance states: “it is unlikely that a project of a physical nature that is under £2,000 will have sufficient substance and scale to qualify	The vision statement is ““Through the power of rugby, every child and young person has access to the best life opportunities”. Funds projects which “enhance and support the lives of children and young people with a cognitive age under 25 that are disadvantaged physically, mentally, or socially”. Included here as they have funded several sensory garden projects ²⁰ . For physical, tangible assets, it must have a minimum predicted life-span of five years, be non	Will only fund “organisations with a legal status. For example; schools, charities, and clubs”. Will aim not to grant an amount that would include an element of VAT. The applicant should confirm that VAT will be recovered.	Rolling. An initial online expression of interest needs to be submitted before being sent the application.

¹⁸ <https://mushroomtrust.com/about/>

¹⁹ <https://woodenspoon.org.uk/>

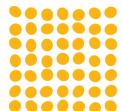
²⁰ See <https://woodenspoon.org.uk/recent-projects/>



Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
	under the 'projected lifespan' rule".	transferable and of a permanent nature. Grants will not be considered for salaries, administration costs, professional fees and on-going overheads related to a capital project.		
East Lothian Council - Community Intervention Fund ²¹	Up to £50,000, or 60% of the total cost of the project	Will provide capital grants to projects that continue to support the delivery of the Council Plan. There are 4 priorities: (1) Grow our Economy; (2) Grow our People; (3) Grow our Communities; and (4). Grow our Capacity. The project examples refer mostly to buildings, but can also include "carrying out improvements to a public space".	Any formally constituted and established community group or charitable organisation based in East Lothian can apply. The budget is limited and in the event that all funding has been allocated in one round, the Council may close the fund and defer applications to the next financial year.	Deadlines are 31 May and 30 November.
The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All ²²	Up to £20,000.	Funds projects which: 11. bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities. 12. improve the places and spaces that matter to communities. 13. help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage.	Widely drawn. Care needed here if applying for another Lottery programme such as Community Action (in the revenue funding section below).	Rolling.

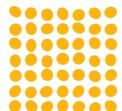
²¹ https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210567/your_community/12486/community_intervention_capital_grant_funding

²² <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland>



Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
		<p>14. support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>They are looking for projects that are connected to local people and their communities, and use their existing skills and experience, with community involvement in project design. Can fund capital.</p>		
Garfield Weston Foundation ²³	Regular Grants programme which is open all year round for grants under £100,000, though usually funds much lower amounts (say £20,000-25,000).	<p>Supports UK registered charities working within the UK in the areas of Environment, Community and Health (so a good fit with the aims of BCG).</p> <p>They can provide funding for capital projects, as well as core or project funding.</p>	<p>Must be a charity to apply.</p> <p>Tenure and planning permission (if relevant) must be confirmed at time of application.</p> <p>GWF recommends that applicants have around half of the required funding identified before applying. A grant is unlikely to be more than around 10-15% of the total costs of the budget.</p>	<p>Rolling</p> <p>Decision likely to be reached approx. 4 months after receipt of application.</p>

²³ See <https://garfieldweston.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Application-guidelines-Autumn-2023.pdf>

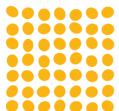


Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
Hugh Fraser Foundation ²⁴	Would need an enquiry – limited information available online.	<p>“So long as the object is charitable the Trustees will consider any application from a registered charity”.</p> <p>Relevant as they are particularly interested in applications from parts of Scotland where the local economy and/or circumstances make fundraising for charitable purposes difficult.</p>	Grants will only be made to organisations which are registered charities or community interest companies.	Trustees meet in March, June, September and December.
A E B Charitable Trust ²⁵	£1,000 to £10,000. Larger grants are available in very limited circumstances at the Trustees' discretion.	<p>Makes grants in support of four charitable purposes, one of which is “the promotion of interests of wildlife, ecology and nature”.</p> <p>Favours causes in the Lothian and Borders regions.</p>	Applicants must be charities.	Applications must be submitted by 30 th November for consideration in Spring.
Scottish Landfill Communities Fund ²⁶	Average award size has been £38,620.	<p>Awards grants for community, environmental and heritage projects to benefit the lives of those living in the vicinity of landfill sites and/or waste transfer stations. There are several ‘objects’, of which the most relevant to BCG are likely to be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Object C: Where it is for the protection of the environment, the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public 	Projects are eligible for funding if the project site is within 10 miles of a landfill site or transfer station.	They do not operate strict timescales and assess based on demand. Once they decide on a meeting they

²⁴ <https://www.turcanconnell.com/the-hugh-fraser-foundation/>

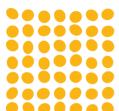
²⁵ <https://www.turcanconnell.com/the-aeb-charitable-trust/>

²⁶ <https://ebscotland.co.uk/index.php/about-slcf>



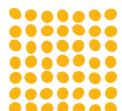
Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
		<p>park or other public amenity in Scotland in the vicinity of a landfill site or waste transfer station; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object D: Where it is for the protection of the environment, the conservation or promotion of biological diversity through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat. 		will set a deadline for receipt of applications.
The Southall Trust ²⁷	Up to £5,000	<p>Four priority areas, which include: “Environmental Action & Sustainability”. There is a list of factors they will look favourably on, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that encourage wider support of the four priority areas. Projects that encourage wider support of the categories listed above Organisations that can demonstrate clear support from the communities in which they are based and/or operate Organisations that are engaged with the communities around them (e.g. through local partnership working). <p>They can fund core and capital costs.</p>	<p>Must be a charity to apply. They also require a clear financial reserves policy.</p>	Rolling.

²⁷ <https://southalltrust.org/whatwesupport/>



Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
The Blair Foundation	£1,000 - £5,000.	The Foundation was established to create environmental conditions in which wildlife can prosper, as well as improving disability access to such areas. Very little detail available online, but may be interested in supporting improvements to accessibility at BCG.	Previous beneficiaries include Ayrshire Wildlife Services, Ayrshire Fiddler Orchestra; Scottish National Trust, CHAS, Sustrans and Scottish Autism.	Rolling.
The MacRobert Trust ²⁸	3 funds: up to £1,000; up to £10,000; and up to £50,000	There are three themes. Theme 2 is Education & Professional Excellence. This includes vocational disciplines of agriculture, horticulture, the environment, biodiversity and rural skills, through the advancement of research and learning, and in the pursuance of best practice and professional excellence. It also extends to encourage active participation in these sectors/disciplines.	Must be a charity to apply. They are interested in funding small independent charities.	Applications for £1-10k will be reviewed between four and six times per year.

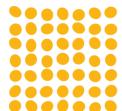
²⁸ <https://www.themacrobotrust.org.uk/grants/>



4.2 Revenue funding

Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
National Lottery Community Action ²⁹	<p>£20,001 to £250,000 for up to 5 years.</p> <p>For organisations that have not had long term funding before, the maximum is likely to be £100,000 in total.</p> <p>Up to £50,000 can be for capital costs.</p>	<p>The focus is on community led projects which help people come together; and to reach and support people who experience poverty, disadvantage or discrimination. Applicants should understand what is available in their community and how their work fills a gap; and build on the skills, experiences and strengths of their community</p> <p>There are 4 outcomes – applicants must meet 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● build positive relationships ● support people's health or wellbeing ● help people improve their access and connection to nature ● make a positive difference to the environment. <p>One of the examples of projects they can fund is “community gardens or growing projects”.</p> <p>Will fund equipment, one-off events, staff costs, training costs, transport, utilities, volunteer expenses and a contribution to</p>	<p>Will fund charities. Applicant organisations should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a clear social purpose that benefits a community ● an open membership that allows people in the community to get involved in your organisation and the work that it does ● a board or committee that is made up of a majority of people from your community. <p>The “Fairer Life Chances” Lottery programme is also a possibility, but Community Action appears to be a better fit (FLC is focussed on supporting people experiencing poverty,</p>	<p>Fund is rolling.</p> <p>Initial enquiry needed before application.</p>

²⁹ <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/community-action>

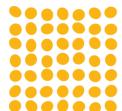


Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
		overheads. Some capital costs can be included but this is not primarily a capital fund.	disadvantage or discrimination). Another possibility is the Climate Action Fund - Our Shared Future programme – but this is aimed at formal partnerships and is larger scale ³⁰ .	
The Finnis Scott Foundation ³¹	£500-10,000	Funds Horticulture (Gardening) and Plant Sciences. This includes training of gardeners; restoration of gardens; and support of the disadvantaged within horticulture. Funds capital and revenue. Will not fund salaries (except time-limited apprenticeships or traineeships),	Fund charities. Unlikely to fund newly established organisations which do not yet have a track record.	Trustees meet in January, April, July and October. Applications due a month in advance.
Gannochy Trust ³²	Small grants of up to £10,000 a year. Main grants of up to £30,000 a year.	Focusses on Perth & Kinross but grants are available outside of this area, to develop and inspire young people (From age 11 to 21 inclusive). Applicants should deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased peer leadership or peer mentoring. 	Funds charities. Charities that are applying to the Trust for the first time or have not received funding within the past ten years should only apply for one year.	Trustees meet three times per year to consider applications. Upcoming deadlines are

³⁰ <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund-our-shared-future>

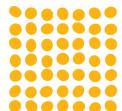
³¹ <https://www.finnis-scott-foundation.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

³² <https://www.gannochytrust.org.uk/our-grants/applying-for-grant-funding/>



Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better employment options that can be measured. Accredited non-formal learning through voluntary activity in the community. <p>Programmes that lead to improved mental health or wellbeing are particularly encouraged.</p> <p>Provides project funding (not capital or core), i.e. costs associated with the direct delivery of a specific project or activity which could include salaries or sessional staff, activity costs, volunteer expenses, transport, training costs and a proportionate contribution to overheads.</p>	Will fund 30% of project costs only.	2 nd May and 3 rd October.
The Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust ³³	Up to £5,000.	<p>Makes grants to individuals, organisations and institutions carrying out projects of significance to horticulture; gardening; or botany with a strong horticultural element.</p> <p>For example, will support developing new gardens, or new garden areas within existing gardens, for public access and enjoyment.</p> <p>Has previously supported St Mary's Pleasance, Haddington, with purchase of plants, edging, compost and equipment hire for new garden area</p>	Will not support applications that are primarily for social welfare, socio-economic development or physical or mental welfare. To be successful such applications must have a strong, defined horticultural purpose, employ qualified horticultural therapists and demonstrate horticultural competence and professionalism.	Grants are normally awarded twice a year with the deadline for applications of 15 th February or 15 th August.

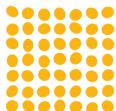
³³ <https://ssht.uk/grant-making-cycle>



Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
Cruden Foundation ³⁴	The majority of awards are £5,000 and under, but they can fund up to £20,000.	<p>Supports charitable projects and activities in Scotland, with a focus on community welfare, medical support and research, the arts, education and conservation. Examples of work they want to fund includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social preventive schemes covering activities which prevent crime, 'dropping out' and general delinquency, provide social care outreach services, deliver social health and safety awareness schemes. • Community social activities which promote social engagement for vulnerable people, mitigating against isolation and loneliness. 	<p>Funds charities, with a focus on smaller charities with lower reserves.</p> <p>Does not tend to support capital expenditure/development projects.</p>	Applications due in advance of board meetings – which are normally November, February and June.
Patagonia - Environmental Grant ³⁵	\$5,000 - \$15,000.	<p>Funds projects in several countries including the UK.</p> <p>They support environmental organisations with "bold, direct-action agendas and a commitment to long-term change". The focus is on innovative work that addresses the root causes of the environmental crisis and seeks to protect both the environment and affected communities.</p>	<p>Applicants must be not for profit.</p> <p>There are some exclusions – e.g. they will not fund land acquisition or trail maintenance.</p> <p>Can fund capital or revenue costs.</p>	Two deadlines per year – 31 st May and 30 th September.

³⁴ <https://crudenfoundation.org/who-we-support/>

³⁵ <https://eu.patagonia.com/gb/en/how-we-fund/>



Funding source	Amount Available	What they will fund	Eligibility criteria and other comments:	Closing dates
		BCG is relevant as they are interested in “local battles to protect a specific stand of forest, a stretch of river, an indigenous wild species or a community from a polluting refinery build public support and confront larger, more complex issues like climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental justice”.		
Coastal Communities Network - Community Support Fund ³⁶	£5,000	<p>The overall aim is progressing local biodiversity conservation and/or development of local groups with a biodiversity focus.</p> <p>Grants must enable groups to meet specific goals to progress local biodiversity conservation, group development or capacity building of the group (in line with their group aims) – or a combination of these outcomes. Will not fund capital.</p>	Open to community based organisations which are active in biodiversity conservation, either via the Coastal Communities Network, or through engagement with Fauna & Flora.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, until the available funding is exhausted within any fund year.

³⁶ <https://www.communitiesforseas.scot/community-support-fund-2/>

