

ALLOTMENT STRATEGY 2010 - 2015

1. Summary

1.1 The report seeks Members' approval for the draft Allotments Strategy, and to agree the finalisation process including consultation with Area Committees, Community Councils, members of the public and other interested groups and organisations; impact assessment screening and then to report back to Resources Committee on completion of the consultations.

1.2 There has been increased interest from the public in Dumfries and Galloway, for allotment sites. The Council manage and maintain allotment sites in Nithsdale and Annandale and Eskdale, which were transferred from the former District Councils, but do not manage or maintain allotments in Stewartry or Wigtown.

1.3 The Council do not have a policy for the establishment of allotment sites. DGFirst, as lead service, have developed a draft strategy for consideration by the Committee as indicated in the **Appendix**.

1.4 There is no dedicated capital or revenue budget provision for the establishment of allotments in Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to agree:-

2.1 the draft Allotment Strategy as detailed in the **Appendix**;

2.2 that consultation on the Strategy be undertaken in line with the National Standards of Community Engagement and therefore will include members of the public, affected groups and organisations, private businesses, Area Committees and Community Councils; and

2.3 note that an Impact Assessment screening will be undertaken in line with the Council's agreed approach and toolkit which will cover equality and environmental impacts.

3. Considerations

3.1 There has been considerable interest across Dumfries and Galloway for allotment provision since COSLA published a document "Allotments in Scotland – Guidance Notes for Scottish Councils". The guidance highlighted the value of allotments in terms of environmental, social and community benefits and noted the role of Councils involvement in this provision. There was also a briefing paper issued by APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) titled "State of the Market Survey 2008 Report, Local Authority Allotments in Scotland".

3.2 The Legislation covering allotments is the Allotments (Scotland) Act 1892 as amended by the Land Settlement (Scotland) Act 1919 and the Allotment (Scotland) Acts of 1922 and 2950. Under terms of the above acts, Local Authorities are obliged to provide allotments if there is a proven need, via land owned by the Local Authority. The Local Authority can also acquire land under the powers of the Allotment Acts by purchase agreement, compulsory purchase, lease, temporary use or adoption of land. The Local Authority has the power to let an allotment at a reduced rent if there are special

circumstances affecting the tenant, which make it proper to do so (Dumfries and Galloway Council currently offer a half price concession for pensioners).

3.3 The Council has 110 allotment plots in Dumfries and Galloway. This comprises of 93 plots over 4 sites in Nithsdale, 17 plots over 2 sites in Annandale and Eskdale. The Council, therefore, has complied with its statutory duty for providing allotments. However, there are no allotment sites in the Stewartry or Wigtown areas; Nithsdale has a waiting list of 55 people while Annandale and Eskdale has a waiting list of 17 people. It should also be noted that there has been interest in other communities in Dumfries and Galloway for allotment sites.

3.4 The 110 allotments plots in Dumfries and Galloway were established under the former District Councils. In order to progress with the current requests for the Council to provide land for new allotments a Council policy needs to be developed and agreed on the establishment of new allotments. It is recommended that the Resources Committee take this forward. Converting land for use as allotments would probably require planning consent.

4. Conclusion

4.1 It is recognised that the Council do not have a policy for the establishment of allotment sites and the purpose of the report is to establish a policy through consultation as required by the National Standards of Community Engagement.

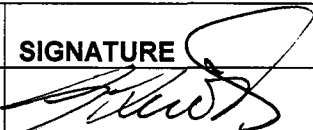
4.2 The Council are obliged to provide allotments if there is a proven requirement, via land owned by the Council. The Council can also acquire land under the power of the **Allotment Acts**.

4.3 ~~There is no dedicated capital or revenue budget provision for the establishment of allotments in Dumfries and Galloway.~~ The financial challenges facing the Council in the delivery of all services is recognised and the Council will have to determine the level of expenditure it can allocate, while still meeting its minimum statutory requirements.

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Appendices 1

Background Papers

Dumfries & Galloway Council Allotment Strategy 2010 - 2015



Contents

Section 1 Introduction

- Executive Summary
- Overall Aim of Strategy
- National policy
- Legislation
- APSE Guidance

Section 2 Allotments in Dumfries and Galloway

- The Local Area
- Current Allotment Provision
- Demand for Allotments
- Current Rental Arrangements
- Rental Comparisons
- Income/Expenditure
- Allotment Site Facilities

Section 3 Strategy Objectives

- Upgrading of Existing Allotments
- Provision of New Allotments
- Making Allotments more accessible
- Managing Allotments
- Financing Allotments

Section 4 Standards and Recommended Practice

- Comparison between Best Practice and Current Practice in Dumfries & Galloway

- Process for new allotment sites

Section 5 Monitoring and Review

- Reviewing of terms/management rules

Section 6 Bibliography

Section 7 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Allotment Holders Questionnaire
- Appendix 2 - Questionnaire Results by Site

Section 1 - Executive Summary

The aim of this document is to review the current service and develop an allotment strategy which sets out the parameters in which the service is to be provided over the next five years.

Allotment provision began around the end of the 1880's as land was put aside for the poor to feed themselves and escape the poorhouse. Between the wars people were encouraged to use allotments to help overcome food shortages and it is estimated that allotment use reached a peak during the Second World War with an estimated 3 million tonnes of fruit and vegetables being produced per annum.

It is widely recognised that allotments provide a range of benefits for people. They contribute to physical wellbeing by supporting a healthy lifestyle through exercise, and also through the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables grown. Mental health is also improved due to being engaged in purposeful physical activity and from the social inclusiveness of that activity.

Communities can be strengthened by developing opportunities to share knowledge and expertise across generations.

Economic benefits can be gained from a ready supply of fresh produce by reducing household food bills.

Carbon Footprints are reduced as food miles are significantly lowered; ecological practices can be incorporated into allotment design to further enhance sustainability.

Biodiversity benefits from the range of habitats supported by allotments.

The general landscape of an area can be improved greatly by the introduction of an allotment site.

1.2 Overall Aim of the Strategy

- To develop an Allotments Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway Council which would increase the opportunity for residents to access and enjoy the benefits associated with cultivating an allotment site

1.3 National Policy

The Scottish Government has identified five key areas as part of national policy and these are used to steer direction on terms of policy development by local authorities. The key themes are described below:-

1.3.1 Wealthier and Fairer - To enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and for more people to share fairly in that wealth. Encouraging allotment activities can contribute to the economic development of the area and can increase the wealth of those participating in those activities.

1.3.2 Smarter - To expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements. Allotment activities promote life long learning by encouraging people

to learn new skills. Allotments can have immense benefits to health and social rehabilitation programmes, and provide horticultural therapy for people with learning difficulties.

1.3.3 Healthier - To help people sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care. In times of increasing stress and financial hardship the provision of allotments has the ability to have a positive effect on both physical and mental health through activity and exercise. Allotments also provide social inclusiveness and opportunities to improve self esteem and confidence. A typical allotment plot can provide fruit and vegetables for a family of four all year round. This would encourage consumption of fresh produce, leading to healthier families. Gardening is excellent exercise and evidence suggests that access to nature aids recovery from illness and reduces stress.

1.3.4 Safer and Stronger - To help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life. Allotment activities can promote community spirit and cohesiveness, particularly when incorporating a community garden for the benefit of all.

1.3.5 Greener - To improve Scotlands natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it. The provision of allotments will improve the local environment and encourage biodiversity. Allotments also encourage people to benefit from outdoor activity, enabling them to enjoy the environment more.

1.4 Legislation

Dumfries and Galloway Council has a statutory duty under the Allotment (Scotland) Act 1892 to provide allotments where there is a demand for them.

In 2007 the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) provided an update to Councils.

The key terms of legislative requirement are summarised as follows:-

The powers and obligations vested in a Council are to be found in the Allotments (Scotland) Acts of 1892, 1922 and 1950 and the Land Settlement (Scotland) Act 1919. In principal Councils are required to:-

- Consider any representations made by local residents to the effect that a Council needs to take action in terms of the Allotments (Scotland) Act 1892.
- Acquire any suitable land that may be available to be let as allotments to local residents where either through representations by the public or through other means a council concludes there is a demand for allotments. Such land may be within or outwith the Councils boundary.
- Make the allotment regulations known by such means as it thinks fit, and provide to any local resident, on demand, a free copy of the regulations
- Keep a register available for public inspection showing the details of 1) The tenancy acreage and rent of each allotment and 2) any unlet allotments
- Provide an annual statement of accounts in respect of the council's allotment provision

The 2007 COSLA update also states that the council have powers to:

- Acquire land through purchase or lease and to do so by agreement or through compulsory measures
- Improve the land acquired for allotments. This may be by enclosing the land, draining it, dividing it into allotments, or creating approaches or roads
- Make regulations as they consider appropriate to regulate the letting of allotments. This covers matters such as eligibility, size of allotments, conditions as to how they may be cultivated, rent and period of notice. Such regulations require to be put to public consultation and then to Scottish Ministers for confirmation

It is recognised that statutory instruments and guidance are open to interpretation. By taking the positive step towards developing an allotment strategy, the councils commitment to provision of allotments can be clearly demonstrated.

1.5 APSE Guidance

A briefing paper was recently issued by APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) titled "State of the Market Survey 2008 Report, Local Authority Allotments in Scotland". In summary it concludes that Greenspace Strategies will incorporate allotments for many Council's in the future working closely with community groups. Findings from the report include:-

- Over two thirds of responses stated that allotments are directly managed by Council services.
- Most of the responses in relation to rental fees stated that most authorities charge in the region of £20 - £30 per annum.

- Most allotment sites have the provision of water and a small number promote services including electricity, composting and washing facilities.
- In relation to security either plot holders manage security or in some instances park rangers and community police are requested to check on allotments when incidences are reported.
- Over 70% of councils responding stated that they are drafting allotment strategies which involve consulting with stakeholders.

Section 2 - Allotments in Dumfries and Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway is divided into four areas:-

- Annandale and Eskdale
- Nithsdale
- Stewartry
- Wigtown

2.1 Current Allotment Activities

Currently only two of the four areas of Dumfries and Galloway provide allotments.

Annandale & Eskdale

In Annandale and Eskdale allotments are currently provided at the following locations:-

Greenknowe (Annan) - which has eleven allotments but is a land locked site with no capacity for expansion.

John Bell's Field (Annan) - which currently has six allotments but has been identified as having capacity for a further thirty four allotments. It is anticipated that it will cost in the region of £3000 to create the additional allotments sites. Initial discussions have taken place with Criminal Justice who have agreed to work with DGFirst on this project and will provide the labour required to expand the site.

The waiting list for allotments in Annandale & Eskdale is currently sitting at 34 people.

Nithsdale

In Nithsdale allotments are currently provided at the following locations:-

Stoop (Dumfries) - 23 allotments, waiting list of 21

KingholmQuay (Dumfries) - 29 allotments, waiting list of 17

Noblehill (Dumfries) - 12 allotments, waiting list of 15

Thornhill - 28 allotments, waiting list of 5

The allotment site at Thornhill is rented from Buccleuch Estates. All other sites are within Council ownership.

Stewartry

There are currently no allotments sites operating in Stewartry although interest has been expressed in Kirkcudbright, Dalbeattie and Gatehouse of Fleet. Community groups are currently trying to source suitable land to develop allotment sites.

Wigtown

There are currently no allotment sites operating in Wigtown. To date there have been no expressions of interest from the public in developing any allotments.

2.2 Demand for Allotments

Demand for allotments has increased nationally in recent years due to changing attitudes of younger generations and rising concerns about genetically modified food and

concern for the environment. Allotments regularly feature on programmes such as Gardener's World and Hugh Fearnly Whittingstall's River Cottage, and this publicity has also generated public interest. The effect of the "credit crunch" has also generated increased enquiries about allotment availability, particularly from young families keen to reduce food bills by growing their own fruit and vegetables.

Interest has been expressed by a number of communities on forming allotments, specifically :-

- Moffat
- Langholm
- Kirkcudbright
- Dalbeattie
- Gatehouse of Fleet

2.3 Demographics

Whilst the overall population within Dumfries and Galloway appears to be remaining relatively static, there is a high proportion of people of pension age which, based on latest data, amounts to 24.2% of the population. The percentage of under 16 year olds in the same study was 17.4%.

4.17 The average age within the Dumfries and Galloway population is currently 41.8 compared to the national average of 38.3. There is also a decline in birth rate, with school rolls expected to decrease by 17% over the next 10 years against a national average decrease of 9.7%.

4.18 The region also has a low population density of 60 people per square mile compared to the Scottish average 168, with over 25% living more than 30 minutes drive to a large town. The largest two towns are Dumfries, with an

estimated population of 37,110, followed by Stranraer with 10,600. Overall the population lives in relatively small communities; mainly less than 4,000 or in the countryside.

2.4 Profile of Current Allotment Holders

Age

	25 – 40 Years	41 – 55 Years	56 – 65 Years	65 + Years	80+ Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	4	21	23	28	2
Percentage of Total Allotment Holders	5%	27%	29%	36%	3%

Gender

	Male	Female
Total	68	39
Percentage	64%	36%

2.5 Rental Arrangements

All current allotments are managed by Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGFirst).

Annual rental agreements are in place and the current charge for rental of an allotment is £0.25 per square metre with a 50% concession for those of pension age.

Any alteration in allotment rents are agreed annually via Dumfries and Galloway Councils Resources Committee. These have risen by £0.01 per square metre per annum in recent years.

2.6 Rental Comparison

	Annual Charge	Average Allotment Size	Concession
Dumfries & Galloway	£25.00	10X10	£12.50
South Ayrshire	£20.00	10x15	N/A
Aberdeen	£70.00	30x10	£35.00
South Lanarkshire	£22.50	10x15	£14.50
Edinburgh City	£60.00	20x10	£30.00
Glasgow City	£32.50	20x10	£25.00

2.7 Income/Expenditure 2009/10

	<u>Income 2009/10</u>	<u>Expenditure 2009/10</u>
<u>Greenknowe</u>	£372.22	£250.00
<u>John Bell's Field</u>	£122.75	£75.00
<u>Noblehill</u>	£398.88	£100
<u>Kingholm</u>	£878.28	£100

<u>Stoop</u>	£901.56	£100
<u>Thornhill</u>	£280.80	£600

Expenditure is mainly grass cutting on paths, emptying of tips, small amount of fencing repaired at Thornhill this year and some plumbing work to Greenknowe.

2.8 Allotment Facilities

Sheds/Glasshouses

There are currently no sheds permitted on any Dumfries and Galloway allotment.

Toilets/Washing Facilities

There are currently no washing facilities or toilets provided on any Dumfries and Galloway allotment site. Access to mains water is provided.

Removal of waste

Annandale & Eskdale provide dump areas within the allotments which are emptied by DGFirst staff at no additional charge to allotment holders.

Composting Facilities

Compost bins are not provided by the council although these have been promoted via Planning and Environment Department schemes (Still need to check with Moira Weatherup on this stuff).

There is no communal composting or recycling facilities at any of our current allotment sites.

2.9 Minimum Standards and Recommended Practices

As a minimum parking facilities for at least 1 car per 10 allotments must be provided, with a minimum provision of 2 spaces and it is recommended that secure cycle storage is also provided.

All sites must have mains water provision; however, this should only be used to supplement primary use of collected rainwater. Any buildings, sheds or glasshouses must incorporate rainwater collection systems.

Paths giving access to allotments must comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Wherever possible, it is recommended that paths are built using reclaimed materials.

Glasshouses and other covered areas must be no more than 30% of the area of each allotment plot, with the remainder of the allotment being available for outdoor cultivation, erection of a shed and composting.

Sheds must be limited to one per plot, no more than 8ft by 6ft in size. A larger shared site hut may be erected on a communal plot.

The council promotes waste awareness and encourages the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Composting should take place on all sites, either communally or by individual plot holders. All other waste should be reduced to a minimum and be taken home or to the Council recycling centre for disposal.

It is recommended that toilets are provided, except where there are alternative public facilities within 500 metres. Composting toilets are recommended as both the cheapest solution and that with the least environmental

impact. On small sites where it is not feasible to provide toilets, distance from home should be considered when letting allotments.

The site must be secure. Site security considerations will depend on local factors. Sites bounded by housing may require less security than those in more open, unsupervised area. Fencing must be designed to meet local needs on a site-by-site basis. Where possible hedges should be planted to support biodiversity and to provide shelter and privacy.

The following recommended practices should be adopted whenever possible:-

- Allotments should be designed to fit well into the landscape
- Where space allows, a communal garden area will help to support the social inclusion and community cohesion benefits of the allotments.
- Sustainable technologies should be used wherever possible, for example building design and construction, waste water and energy sources.
- Cultivation techniques, and in particular the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers should bear biodiversity and environmental quality in mind. Where used, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers must be applied in a way that avoids contamination of surrounding ground and other allotment plots.
- The council should promote the benefits of allotment gardening, especially where there is under-use of existing allotments.

Plot sizes will vary according to the physical characteristics of the site. Recommended sizes are:-

- For a full plot - 18m X9m
- For a half plot - 9m X9m
- For a community plot - 18m X18m

A sign must be displayed at the allotment site giving details of the ownership and management of the site, details of how to apply for an allotment plot and emergency contact phone numbers.

It is recognised that Dumfries and Galloway's current allotment sites do not meet all of the above recommended standards.

As part of this strategy a review of current sites will be carried out and a list of improvements drawn up and addressed where financial constraints allow.

An initial survey of allotments holders has been carried out. This took the form of a questionnaire (Appendix 1). A fantastic response of 84% return was received, which in itself, speaks volumes about the importance attached to allotments by current holders.

As well as addressing specific areas the questionnaire was designed to be open and to encourage allotment holders to make additional comments and voice their opinions. Again this resulted in a large response with almost all taking the time to put pen to paper to share their views and ideas. These comments are fully detailed in the Questionnaire Results (Appendix 2) but are summarised here :-

Request for more secure fencing; existing fencing to be repaired, rabbit proof fencing to be installed.

Install fence, gate and access key system.

Permit sheds

Large Communal shed for allotment holders use

Request for Toilet Provision

Request for additional stand pipes (may be averted by permitting sheds which would allow rainwater collection to take place).

Address drainage issues.

Provide smaller allotments

Allow shared tenancies

Address tenancy issues – unworked/untidy sites; evict offenders; generally monitor the sites more and make presence felt.

Supply or allow access to grass cuttings/leaf mould etc from DGFirst activity

Communal Composting Sites

Allocate allotments in January (to allow time to cultivate prior to growing season)

Annual meeting of council and allotment holders (Spring?) to discuss issues and to welcome new allotment holders.

Encourage/set up competition between allotment sites

Requests to keep hens and bees

2.9 Strategy Objectives

2.9.1 To carry out an audit of current allotment sites and their facilities. This will determine the financial input required to bring current allotments up to recommended standards.

2.9.2 To assess current allotments in respect of DDA requirements.

2.9.3 To address concerns raised by current allotment holders (via Allotments Questionnaire) as quickly as possible.

2.9.4 To carry out a review of Allotment Rules and Regulations (in consultation with current allotment holders).

2.9.5 To endeavour to satisfy demand for allotments by creating new sites/expanding existing sites where possible.

2.10 Process for New Allotment Sites

The following process will be followed to address requests for new allotment sites.

- 1) Application is made to the Council by a Community Group for a new allotment site to be established. Alternatively, individual applications are received from residents.
- 2) If requests can be met from existing allotment provision, applications are passed to the appropriate Council Officer managing the site.

- 3) If a new allotment site is needed to satisfy the requests, the appropriate Council Officer will engage with interested parties to support them.
- 4) Examine any potential sites identified by the Community Group to determine ownership and any conflicting interests (council officer working with planning and corporate property).
- 5) Determine whether any other council owned land might be suitable and liaise with other public sector bodies.
- 6) Verify suitability of any land identified (soil, drainage, contamination). Council officer working with DGFirst, corporate property, planning etc.
- 7) Verify where planning permission is required and make application
- 8) Council Officer works with community group to help them secure funding, develop constitution and management plan for the site.
- 9) Council Officer coordinates lease agreement between owner and allotment association (possibly sub-leased via council from another public sector body.)

Bibliography

Scottish Government Economic Strategy, November 2007
– ISBN 978-0-5548-0

Allotments in Scotland – COSLA Guidance (September
2007)

Guidance Notes for Scottish Councils

Highland Council Allotments Strategy

Appendix 1

Allotment Holders Questionnaire

1) Where is your allotment located?

Greenknowe, Annan
 John Bell's Field, Annan
 Stoop, Dumfries
 Kingholm, Dumfries
 Noblehill, Dumfries
 Thornhill

2) How many years have you been an allotment holder with Dumfries and Galloway Council?

3) Which age group do you fall into?

25 – 40
 41 – 55
 56 – 65
 65 and over

4) How close is your allotment to your home?

Within walking distance
 2 – 5 miles
 5 – 10 miles
 Other (please specify)

5) Do you feel that allotment sizes are adequate? Or are they too large, too small?

6) Do you regularly compost material on your allotment?

7) Do you feel your allotment site is secure?

8) Have you had problems with vandalism or theft?

9) Is there anything Dumfries and Galloway Council could do to increase your enjoyment of your allotment?

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please feel free to make any additional comments on the reverse of this sheet.

Appendix 2
Questionnaire Results By Allotment Site

Greenknowe, Annan

Age

	25 – 40 Years	41 – 55 Years	56 – 65 Years	65 + Years	80+ Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	0	2	2	4	0

Gender

	Male	Female
Total	6	5

Length of Tenancy

Length of Tenancy	0 – 5 Years	6 – 10 Years	11 – 15 Years	16 – 20 Years	21 – 25 Years	26 – 30 Years	31 – 40 Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	0	3	1	1	0	2	0

Distance from Home

Distance from Home	Walking	2 – 5 Miles	5 – 10 Miles
No. Of Allotment Holders	7	1	0

Allotment Size

Allotment Size	Too Large	Too Small	Just Right (For current holder)
No. of Allotment Holders	1	0	7

Compost

Composting On Site	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	8	0

Security

Site Secure?	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	8	0

Vandalism/Theft

Victim of Vandalism/Theft	Yes	No
No of Allotment Holders	1	7

General Comments Received

Cut hedge which bounds allotments and school path.
 Cost of allotments should be less.
 Move/renew noticeboard to the gate;

Ednam Street residents are dumping rubbish in allotment dump.

Have rent payable by March (currently billed June/July)

Put water supply into individual allotments.

John Bell's Field, Annan

Age

	25 – 40 Years	41 – 55 Years	56 – 65 Years	65 + Years	80+ Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	0	2	2	0	0

Gender

	Male	Female
Total	2	2

Length of Tenancy

Length of Tenancy	0 – 5 Year s	6 – 10 Year s	11 – 15 Year s	16 – 20 Year s	21 – 25 Year s	26 – 30 Year s	31 – 40 Year s
No. Of Allotment Holders	2	2	0	0	0	0	0

Distance from Home

Distance from Home	Walking	2 – 5 Miles	5 – 10 Miles

No. Of Allotment Holders	2	2	
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Allotment Size

Allotment Size	Too Large	Too Small	Just Right (For current holder)
No. of Allotment Holders	0	0	4

Compost

Composting On Site	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	4	0

Security

Site Secure?	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	2	2

Vandalism/ Theft

Victim of Vandalism/Theft	Yes	No
No of Allotment Holders	4	0

General Comments Received

Sort drainage issues

Stoop, Dumfries**Age**

	25 – 40 Years	41 – 55 Years	56 – 65 Years	65 + Years	80+ Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	0	4	8	7	0

Gender

	Male	Female
Total	17	7

Length of Tenancy

Length of Tenancy	0 – 5 Year s	6 – 10 Year s	11 – 15 Year s	16 – 20 Year s	21 – 25 Year s	26 – 30 Year s	31 – 40 Year s
No. Of Allotment Holders	6	5	3	1	0	0	2

Distance from Home

Distance from Home	Walking	2 – 5 Miles	5 – 10 Miles
No. Of Allotment Holders	6	12	1

Allotment Size

Allotment Size	Too Large	Too Small	Just Right (For current holder)
No. of Allotment Holders	2	0	17

Compost

Composting On Site	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	18	1

Security

Site Secure?	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	3	16

Vandalism/ Theft

Victim of Vandalism/Theft	Yes	No
No of Allotment Holders	12	5

General Comments Received

Make fencing secure
 Install fence, gate, key access system
 Rabbit proof fencing/control rabbits
 Provide skips/dumps
 Allow to keep chickens/poultry

Review rules and regulations

Allow shared tenancies

Provide smaller/starter allotments

Provide access to leaf mould, grass cuttings from DGFirst Operations

Inspect allotments more regularly and enforce rules.

Remove tenancies from people who fail to keep up their allotments.

Stop ability to use site as a shortcut/kids cut through site en route to Peel Centre shops.

Install toilets

Keep dogs out

Lower rents (rents higher than rest of Scotland)

Kingholm, Dumfries**Age**

	25 – 40 Years	41 – 55 Years	56 – 65 Years	65 + Years	80+ Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	2	8	4	7	0

Gender

	Male	Female
Total	19	10

Length of Tenancy

Length of Tenancy	0 – 5 Year s	6 – 10 Year s	11 – 15 Year s	16 – 20 Year s	21 – 25 Year s	26 – 30 Year s	31 – 40 Year s
No. Of Allotment Holders	13	2	2	0	1	1	0

Distance from Home

Distance from Home	Walking	2 – 5 Miles	5 – 10 Miles
No. Of Allotment Holders	5	15	0

Allotment Size

Allotment Size	Too Large	Too Small	Just Right (For current holder)
No. of Allotment Holders	5	1	13

Compost

Composting On Site	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	18	1

Security

Site Secure?	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	5	14

Vandalism/Theft

Victim of Vandalism/Theft	Yes	No
No of Allotment Holders	14	3

General Comments Received

Dog fouling is an issue
 Stop people from walking dogs through allotment site
 Allocate plots in January

Idle/uncultivated plots – inspect more regularly and take action

Do not renew tenancy for uncultivated plots

Offer allotment holders council produced leaf mould, grass cuttings, from adjacent park site.

Improve condition of road

Allow small sheds to store tools

Deal with rabbits/install rabbit proof fencing

Keep verges trimmed

Cut grass better on paths

Provision of waste collection (for non compostable material)

Install more water taps

Halve size of some allotments

Provision of manure

Provision of mulch

Install more recycling facilities/communal composting facility/access to mulch/chippings

Lower rents

Create new sites.

Noblehill, Dumfries**Age**

	25 – 40 Years	41 – 55 Years	56 – 65 Years	65 + Years	80+ Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	2	3	4	0	1

Gender

	Male	Female
Total	7	5

Length of Tenancy

Length of Tenancy	0 – 5 Year s	6 – 10 Year s	11 – 15 Year s	16 – 20 Year s	21 – 25 Year s	26 – 30 Year s	31 – 40 Year s
No. Of Allotment Holders	8	0	0	0	0	1	0

Distance from Home

Distance from Home	Walking	2 – 5 Miles	5 – 10 Miles
No. Of Allotment Holders	2	8	0

Allotment Size

Allotment Size	Too Large	Too Small	Just Right (For current holder)
No. of Allotment Holders	2	1*	6

* Current holder only has a half size plot.

Compost

Composting On Site	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	7	2

Security

Site Secure?	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	2	7

Vandalism/Theft

Victim of Vandalism/Theft	Yes	No
No of Allotment Holders	6	2

General Comments Received

Provide access to composted material
 Install more water taps
 Provide free manure delivery

Allow to install sheds

Make boundary fences higher

Generally secure site better

Hold annual meeting of allotment holders and Council (Spring ?) to discuss issues and to welcome any new allotment holders.

Provide large shed for allotment holders use

Set up competition between allotment holders/sites

Take away waste

Maintain un- cultivated sites to prevent weeds seeding onto adjacent plots

Allow polytunnels/greenhouses

Set up allotments in Heathhall/Locharbriggs area

When grass is cut it is left to blow everywhere and allotment holders have to clear it up.

Visit us!!!

Thornhill**Age**

	25 – 40 Years	41 – 55 Years	56 – 65 Years	65 + Years	80+ Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	0	4	3	1	1

Gender

	Male	Female
Total	17	10

Length of Tenancy

Length of Tenancy	0 – 5 Years	6 – 10 Years	11 – 15 Years	16 – 20 Years	21 – 25 Years	26 – 30 Years	31 – 40 Years
No. Of Allotment Holders	9	5	0	1	0	0	0

Distance from Home

Distance from Home	Walking	2 – 5 Miles	5 – 10 Miles
No. Of Allotment Holders	14	1	2

Allotment Size

Allotment Size	Too Large	Too Small	Just Right (For current holder)
No. of Allotment Holders	1	1	15

Compost

Composting On Site	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	14	4

Security

Site Secure?	Yes	No
No. Of Allotment Holders	5	13

Victim of Vandalism/Theft

Victim of Vandalism/Theft	Yes	No
No of Allotment Holders	11	5

General Comments Received

Do not renew lease to unworked allotments
 Enforce rule that allotments need to be kept weed free – 2 warnings then out!
 More council supervision
 Secure Fencing

Better security/stock proof fencing/keep vandals out
Sheds – are they allowed or not – some have recently
appeared?

Allotments 8, 18 and 19 are left weedy all the time – have
complained but nothing done.

Only allow one allotment per person

Install gate from field to allow delivery of manure

Hedgecutting twice each year

Free compost provided

Install more water pipes

Creating a strategy is a positive step.