

Good morning,

hope this email finds you well.

My name is am a local resident and I'm writing on behalf of a group local residents looking for premises to start a community garden for organic food production and skills sharing.

We would love to collaborate with ETC and hopefully use part of the town's public space and offer the local community the facilities to learn horticultural skills, social skill shares as well as growing affordable organic food for local consumption, through the involvement of volunteers from our local area by using, adapting and re-wilding unused spaces in town.

Please find more information in our proposal attached.

Looking forward to hearing from you and hopefully to start this collaboration very soon.

Kindest regards

We are a group of local residents looking for premises to start a community garden for organic food production and skills sharing.

As a group we have a diverse range of skills, qualifications and experience, including working with disability and vulnerable adults, horticulture, fundraising and marketing, Forest Schools and education.

We are a community project aimed to provide opportunities for local people to take practical action to help their local environment, growing organic food, collecting and saving seeds, sharing skills and exploring how we can work in our communities towards Ecological and Social Regeneration.

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

We would like to collaborate with ETC to use part of the town's public space and offer the local community the facilities to learn horticultural skills, social skill shares as well as growing affordable organic food for local consumption, through the involvement of volunteers from our local area.

It is envisioned that this plan will help transform an unused land into a Community Garden for local groups and families and will also provide opportunities for volunteers to gain experience and skills in a variety of environmental subjects including:

Organic food growing, away from conventional farming practices which use synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, which caused half of the most productive soil to disappear in the world in the last 150 years.

Permaculture practices, in relation to food growth, which involves using natural fertilizers such as human made compost, leaves (mulch) and regenerative landscaping techniques such as Hugel mounds, climate resilient food growing techniques and soil regeneration

Building resilient neighbourhoods - restorative practices, sharing and reflection circles, peer learning and deep collaboration

Youth and mental health support through nature, as is widely known, being around nature has a direct benefit to mental health, especially at a time where we have reduced contact with people and 75% of young people with mental health problems are not being treated

Food and skills sharing, possibly supporting the local food bank

In addition to the practical work, we will undertake to work with the owners, where necessary, to:

- Preparation of Risk Assessment to cover all work on site,
- Identify potential volunteers,
- Secure further funding for development of the project,
- Design a training programme for participant and the wider community,
- Publicise the project to raise awareness of the positive impacts of it.

We look forward to hearing from you to discuss this project, and how it could benefit all parties involved.