



**Community Land**  
Advisory Service Cymru

# Fill the streets with food and flowers, Cardiff

**17 March 2017**





# Introduction

On Friday, 17th March 2017 the Community Land Advisory Service Cymru brought together Cardiff community growers, partner organisations, Assembly Members and Cardiff Councillors and Officers at Chapter Arts Centre to work out the simplest way for allowing communities to grow an abundance of food and flowers on the streets of Cardiff.

We discussed inspiring and proactive case studies and stories of positive change, and looked at the various Cardiff Council processes to allow community growing in public spaces. The collective community growing dreams, challenges and solutions were discussed and some positive and tangible outcomes were developed.

Cardiff community growers left the room feeling inspired to grow in abundance on the streets across Cardiff!

## Reactions on social media



**Canton & Riverside**

@cantongrowswild

Want to take back your streets & community spaces? Grow fruit, veg, flowers...see incredible wildlife - we can do this today! [#ediblecardiff](#)



**nigel pugh**

@nspugh

.@FCFCGWales 'Fill The Streets With Food & Flowers' [#ediblecardiff](#) @incredibleible 'get out there & do it' [twitter.com/nspugh/status/...](https://twitter.com/nspugh/status/...) picpic



**Green City**

@GreenCityEvents

Thanks to @FCFCGWales @LucieClas for inspiring event today & all the great speakers. Let's all get growing in [#Splott](#) & [#Adamsdown](#) !



# Speakers and presentations

CLAS Cymru would like to thank all the speakers for their inspiring and positive contributions.

Mark Drakeford, Assembly Member for Cardiff West

"Coming together gives rise to new possibilities..."



Mr Drakeford highlighted the strong connection between the use of public spaces and the well-being agenda and the cultural change demonstrated by the increase in community growing. With a shift towards proactive community action, people are coming together to improve communities, increase our food and growing skills and help to build closer, more resilient communities.

Mr Drakeford acknowledged that there is now a major cultural shift of how we think of public services generally and a growing recognition that we get the best out of public spaces when we think collectively.

He reminded the audience of the role citizens have to play in working collaboratively with public services.

Whilst acknowledging that public services have a journey to go on he stated they cannot do it alone. 'Coming together' gives rise to a new set of possibilities and the prize is immense.

Pam Warhurst, Incredible Edible Network

"If you eat, you're in"



Pam totally inspired delegates with her take on the power of small actions. She provided lots of examples of the transformative power of edible public planting from around the world. It all started with her simple idea of creating Incredible Edible Todmorden whose motto is 'If you eat, you're in'.

As the doyen of community growing in public spaces, Pam really made delegates believe the abundance she created in Todmorden could be replicated in Cardiff. Everybody in the room felt extremely keen to get started!



## David Kilner, Canton and Riverside Grows Wild

“Greening communities and encouraging biodiversity”



David provided an animated and enthusiastic look at the growing Canton and Riverside Grows Wild has been undertaking.

They've brought food and flower planting into a densely populated urban area of Cardiff, greening these communities and encouraging biodiversity. David has been recording the pollinators foraging on the new community spaces and has already spotted 10 different bee species this year!

David really inspired delegates to believe public planting can be achieved right across the city!

## Matthew Wakelam, Cardiff Council

“Positive change can happen when council and residents work in partnership”



Matthew is an operational manager at the City of Cardiff Council. His department is proactively working with Cardiff citizens to improve communities.

Matthew explained the process they are using for highways land across the city and how they provide planters and extend liability insurance from the Council, helping communities get growing quickly and easily.

Matthew demonstrated the positive change that could happen when the council and residents work proactively and in partnership.

## Lucie Taylor, CLAS Cymru

“Local authorities and communities could have a quick and easy process to begin growing in public spaces”

Lucie brought together the different processes that are being used across the city in different departments and provided a website case study of the process they use in Sydney, Australia for planting on public grass verges and on highways.

Lucie advised that by using the support of the Community Land Advisory Service and recent guidance from Welsh Government, local authorities and communities could have a quick and easy process to begin growing in public spaces.

## Discussion session: Dreams, challenges and solutions



Delegates worked in groups to identify common ambitions for community growing in the city and what barriers they may face. They also worked together to find solutions to some of the challenges. Noted here are some of the common themes from this group work.

### Dreams

- Cardiff Community growers connected and networking
- Having a visual presence across Cardiff and public awareness
- Edible and pollinator pride across Cardiff
- Joined up services and delivery across the Council
- Shared resources and an equipment library
- Help feed Cardiff
- Enthused, active and enabled communities
- Green prescriptions across Cardiff
- Easy access to growing spaces
- Social and economic outcomes
- Use of green walls, roofs and vertical growing
- A city farm for Cardiff.

### Challenges

- Health and safety
- Risk averse council procedures
- Finding the best person to speak to
- Red tape
- Financial and staff resources
- Joined up thinking
- Insurance and liability

### Solutions

- A one stop shop website, newsletter and network
- One joined up easy process in the Council.
- A brand to inspire and raise awareness. Could we evolve the Grow Cardiff brand?
- Pooled resources inside and outside the Council
- A clear role for the third sector
- Local Authority well-being assessments
- Local authorities extending its liability for group projects in public spaces.

# Fill the streets with food and flowers, Cardiff: Next steps

A smaller task and finish group to concentrate on:

- A conference report for wide circulation
- One streamlined process
- A brand to provide identity
- One point of contact in the council
- Permission to have an edible presence at a high profile site in Cardiff – new Central Square development suggested
- A role for the third sector in managing public spaces.

## Resources

- Welsh Government Guidance – 'Traditional Allotments and Community Led Gardening Projects'
- 'FCFCG Community Growing Resource Pack'  
[www.farmgarden.org.uk/resources](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/resources)
- Farm Cardiff Map  
[www.opengreenmap.org/greenmap/farm-cardiff](http://www.opengreenmap.org/greenmap/farm-cardiff)
- Incredible Edible: <http://incredibleediblenetwork.org.uk>

## Contributing organisations

CLAS Cymru and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) would like to thank all the organisations listed. The success of the event was largely down to their input, collaboration and team work.

- Mark Drakeford, AM Cardiff West Office : <http://markdrakeford.com>
- Canton Community Gardens: [www.cantoncommunitygardens.co.uk](http://www.cantoncommunitygardens.co.uk)
- Canton and Riverside Grows Wild: [www.facebook.com/cantongrowswild](http://www.facebook.com/cantongrowswild)
- Plasnewydd Community Garden: [www.facebook.com/plasnewydd.garden](http://www.facebook.com/plasnewydd.garden)
- Sam Holt and Eggseeds: [www.facebook.com/EggSeeds](http://www.facebook.com/EggSeeds)
- Green City Events: [www.facebook.com/GreenCityEvents](http://www.facebook.com/GreenCityEvents)
- Michelle Fitzsimmons and Edible Landscaping: [www.ediblelandscaping.co.uk](http://www.ediblelandscaping.co.uk)
- Grow Cardiff: [www.facebook.com/growcardiff](http://www.facebook.com/growcardiff)
- Cardiff Transition
- Food Cardiff and Sustainable Food Cities: <http://foodcardiff.com>
- Love where you live and Cardiff Council: [www.keepcardifftidy.com/love-where-you-live](http://www.keepcardifftidy.com/love-where-you-live)

# Acknowledgements

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- Mark Drakeford AM @markdrakeford
- Cardiff Met Community Garden @CMetGarden
- Canton and Riverside Grows Wild @cantongrowswild
- Lucie Taylor @lucieclas
- Councillor Caro Wild @carowild
- Keep Wales Tidy @greenflagwales
- Gwenda Owen @BeicioGwenda
- Up front Gardens @upfrontgardens
- Abby Charles @ohsoorganised
- Green City Events @GreenCityEvents
- David Kilner @Davkilner
- Chapter Arts Centre @chaptertweets
- Ediblelandscaping @ediblelands



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CLAS Cymru is project managed by  
the Federation of City Farms and  
Community Gardens, a registered  
charity in England, Scotland and Wales.

Find out more about FCFCG at:  
**[www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)**



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LOTTERY FUNDED