

BRAEHEAD COMMUNITY GARDEN

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2018 – 2023

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1. Vision

In 2012, a group of Braehead residents came together to create a community garden in a little-used “green desert”. At the heart of this vision is the local community, shaping every aspect of the project both in its development and implementation.

The aim was to transform and revitalise an existing field into a community garden, creating a space where community members can meet, socialise, plant, grow, eat and learn. This aim is being achieved and Braehead Community Garden is now building on its success to deliver its intended outcomes:

- An increase in the community’s pride in its greenspace
- An increase in the numbers involved in improving their community and gaining new skills
- A healthier and more economically resilient community
- Improved social interaction and relationships within the community

Today, over 140 members participate in the life of the garden, and events open to the wider community regularly attract over 200 people. Braehead Community Garden not only enthuses and engages local people, but also serves as a site of learning and inspiration for the wider community – a lasting legacy for the Braehead community.

The garden is now managed by Braehead & Broomridge Community Development Trust. Both have demonstrated success and we believe that both are sufficiently mature for the Trust to move to ownership of the land on which the Garden is built.

There are many significant benefits of the garden that can be enjoyed by our community and the wider society - environmental, health, economic, social cohesion, educational and resilience. The environment has been transformed, with a focus in the communal areas of the garden on planting for pollinators and other wildlife, as well as growing food. There are substantial health benefits, which arise both from increased consumption of healthy, locally grown, mineral-rich food and from residents getting out of their homes and into a social environment outdoors. There are also economic benefits, as local people are saving money on food. Local people are also increasing their knowledge and connection with each other, creating a more resilient community. Ownership of the land on which the garden is built will help to secure Braehead Community Garden for the benefit of the community in years to come.

2. Introduction

Braehead Community Garden opened in 2014. The development of the garden was started by Braehead Community Council, using land leased to the Community Council for 10 years by Stirling Council. The garden is now managed by Braehead & Broomridge Community Development Trust, which was formed to manage a number of community-led projects locally, including the garden.

About Braehead Community Garden

In 2009 residents from Braehead and neighbouring Broomridge submitted a petition to Stirling Council to request the provision of allotments in the area, and this was followed in 2012 with a comprehensive community consultation which led directly to the formation of the community garden. In 2014, Big Lottery funding of £247,891 enabled the design and build of the garden. The garden design was judged best “Design for Community Space” at the Society of Garden Designers’ Awards 2015.

In 2018 there are over 140 members, comprising 73 “growing” members, 68 garden access pass holders, and 5 other community groups registered as members.

The garden’s award-winning design includes 100 raised beds for community members, designed for minimum maintenance and ease of planting, and designed in such a way as to encourage socialising. The mantra of the garden is “no bending, no weeding and no wellies!” – facilitated by the height of the raised beds and the weed suppressing membrane that has been used on all paths. In addition to raised beds there are 3 polytunnels, enabling growing to take place year round and creating a space in which workshops and community events can happen.

Members initiate and run a wide variety of activities in the garden, including propagating, hen keeping, bee keeping, brewing, volunteer action days, social events such as barbeques, and a market garden. The wider community is engaged through a range of regular activities including open days, plant sales, an annual horticultural show, and a pumpkin festival; local Brownies and Guides also use the garden as a meeting place.

Further developments from 2018 aim to reach out to a wider community still. These include the development of a “Men’s Shed”, a weekly Craft Group, and fortnightly Doctor Bike sessions in conjunction with the Stirling Cycle Hub and Recyke a Bike, to encourage active travel. There are partnerships in place with other public and third sector organisations, including partnerships with local schools, and support to the garden from Forth Environment Link and from Stirling Council’s Community Payback team.

About Braehead & Broomridge Community Development Trust

Braehead & Broomridge Community Development Trust is a charity (SC046408) set up to help tackle local issues and enhance the quality of life in the area.

Our vision is to create a vibrant, connected community which flourishes as a key part of 21st Century Stirling, with healthy, happy residents.

BBCDT is owned and managed by local residents. It is free to join, and is run by a board of Trustees, elected from the membership at our AGM. Joining the Trust is a great way for residents to keep up to date with what is happening across Braehead and Broomridge, with a regular newsletter and quarterly meetings. BBCDT offers local residents a framework for delivering fantastic community projects.

BBCDT's mission is to:

- Pursue projects and objectives which recognise that our physical and mental wellbeing is inseparable from the condition and health of the built and natural environment in which we live.
- Listen to and amplify the local community voice to create, influence and facilitate new opportunities that enhance the quality of life in Braehead and Broomridge
- Work with partners and members to nurture civic pride and enhance our reputation regionally and nationally.

BBCDT's objectives are:

- Regular community engagement to stay relevant and connected to our members' priorities
- Exploring and delivering innovative technologies and projects that enhance and improve our built environment
- Expanding on the success of Braehead Community Garden by continuing to explore and improve attitudes and skills relating to growing and preparing locally grown food
- Expanding on the success of Braehead Community Garden by continuing to create hub spaces and events for members and residents to foster strong, vibrant relationships.
- Creating and / or identifying volunteering opportunities and matching them with residents who have the skills to help facilitate success.

3. Policy Context

Over the past ten years interest in local food and community growing has increased significantly – including across the Forth Valley. The focus on local food production has developed out of an awareness of our impact on the environment, climate change, the impact of “food miles” (the miles that food travels from field to fork) – as well as the joy that comes from growing one’s own food.

The interest in community growing is reflected in government policy and practice at both the national and local levels. This section outlines the broader policy context that is shaping the food agenda, as well as community responses and academic research about food growing.

National Context

National Performance Framework

The Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework has as one of its 5 strategic objectives a “Greener” Scotland. It also sets out 16 national outcomes, four of which can be directly correlated with the development of the Braehead Community Garden:

- We live longer, healthier lives
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production

The garden contributes to a number of the indicators used to measure performance against the National Outcomes:

- Increase physical activity
- Improve self-assessed general health
- Improve mental well being
- Improve people’s perceptions of their neighbourhood
- Increase people’s use of Scotland’s outdoors
- Reduce Scotland’s carbon footprint

A range of legislation, policies, and funding commitments contribute to the delivery of the National Performance Framework. The most relevant to Braehead Community Garden are briefly outlined here:

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Community Empowerment Act sets out to ensure that communities are enabled to drive change and achieve their own goals. The Act gives community organisations new rights to request community ownership of assets such as Council-owned land. It also explicitly supports food growing through new allotment legislation and requiring local authorities to put food growing strategies in place.

Part 5 of the Act, dealing with Community Asset Transfer, came into force in January 2017. This Part of the Act introduces a right for community bodies to make requests to local authorities for any land they feel they could make better use of. They can request ownership, lease or other rights as they wish. The local authority must assess requests against a specified list of criteria, laid out in the Act, and agree the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal.

Land Use Strategy (2016)

The vision of the Land Use Strategy is of “a Scotland where we fully recognise, understand and value the importance of our land resources, and where our plans and decisions about land use deliver improved and enduring benefits, enhancing the wellbeing of our nation.”

The community garden supports two objectives: “Responsible stewardship of Scotland’s natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland’s people” and “Urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.”

Zero Waste Plan (2010)

Scotland has an ambitious mission to “achieve a zero waste Scotland, where we make the most efficient use of resources by minimising Scotland’s demand on primary resources, and maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery, of resources instead of treating them as waste”. The plan sets out key actions, including new targets, to tackle the near 20 million tonnes of waste produced by Scotland every year, and supports the Climate Change (Scotland) Act of 2009. Two new targets that will apply to all waste: 70 per cent target is to be recycled, and a maximum five per cent sent to landfill, both by 2025.

The plan aims to drive change and inspire households, businesses, community groups, local authorities and the wider public sector to change the way they view and deal with waste. It contains a broader approach to tackle all waste, not just waste collected by councils.

National Food and Drink Policy (2009)

Scotland's National Food and Drink Policy (2009) set out a number of policy objectives including healthy and sustainable food choices, sustainable food procurement, security and resilience of food supplies, and greater knowledge of what we eat. Specific actions within the policy include:

- ensuring that allotments and “grow your own” projects are strategically supported
- advice and funding to local producers to help them develop markets and to encourage the growth of farmers markets, farm shops and local food initiatives
- investigating the potential for supporting and developing local food forums and local food networks to support local producers
- working with Local Authorities to identify what they can do to influence their local environment to support healthier more sustainable food choices
- identifying how community food groups and social enterprises can be supported to deliver a long-term strategic programme for a strong community food and health sector
- producing practical advice and best practice guidance that appeals to public bodies, communities and individuals to help them develop local “grow your own” initiatives

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) introduces ambitious, world-leading legislation to reduce emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050, and will drive new thinking, new solutions and new technologies putting Scotland at the forefront of building a sustainable low carbon economy.

Scotland's commitments on climate change action are set out in the [Government Economic Strategy](#) and [National Performance Framework](#), as well as in the Climate Change Plan (see below).

Climate Change Plan (2018)

The Plan acknowledges that the role of communities in both urban and rural Scotland is crucial in delivering Scotland's emission reduction targets, and sets out how the Scottish Government supports communities in locally run projects that aim to reduce emissions, improve local communities and help adapt to the impacts of climate change. The mechanism for this support, alongside other policy and legislative actions, is the Climate Challenge Fund. Of particular relevance to the garden is the Plan's statement that around 16 % of individuals' greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to food.

A Fairer, Healthier Scotland: A Strategic Framework for Action 2017-2022

One of the 5 strategic priorities set out by NHS Scotland in the framework is “Healthy, Sustainable Places”, including the long-term outcomes of

- An improvement in the quality of local places
- The impact of environmental sustainability on the public’s health... is more influential in shaping public health policy and practice

Our Growing Community (2013)

This resource by Greenspace Scotland supports communities to take different approaches to community growing including allotments, orchards, community supported agriculture, community gardens, community market gardens, community farms, landsharing and edible landscapes. It is full of ideas and support to help communities explore new places and ways to grow food.

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens undertook research in 2007 to identify the social, environmental, health and economic benefits of community farms and gardens. They concluded that:

“Community-growing projects reconnect people with nature and promote local action of global environmental issues through recycling, composting, the use of organic methods, the creation of wildlife areas and local food production. The presence of hands-on food growing experiences on our doorsteps promotes uptake of healthier diets and bridges the gap from field to plate.

Community farms and gardens provide opportunities for exercise and learning in alternative outdoor settings, acting as stepping-stones to the wider countryside.

Social opportunities provided at these facilities instigate the development of support networks and strengthen communities, promoting integration and integration.

Findings also suggest that community farms and gardens have a positive impact on the local economy through local spending and employment opportunities. It also concluded that community farms and gardens support the delivery of government agendas related to social inclusion, health, climate change, education, regeneration and local economies.”

Conclusion

Current policy supports and promotes the engagement of local communities and the growing of food. The focus on community empowerment, local engagement, and food growing, positions us well to continue developing the garden and to take on ownership of the land on which the garden has been developed.

4. Community Analysis and Needs

Community Demographics

While Braehead Community Council is responsible for the area bounded by A91 to the River Forth to the east, River Forth to the north, Burghmuir Road to the west, and Shirras Brae Road and Pine Road to the south, the target community is focused within the residential community in close proximity to the green space. The majority of the Community Council area is industrial or green space; the residential concentration is bounded by:

- Burghmuir Road to the west
- Shirras Brae Road and Pike Road to the south, and
- The railway line to the east

The garden is located in FK7 7LP (<http://goo.gl/maps/L4naV>). We have done an analysis of the 55 postal codes surrounding the site of the community garden; 33 of the 55 postal code areas are in areas considered to be communities in need by Big Lottery.

These postal codes cover four datazones:

- 1006104
- 1006114
- 1006120
- 1006121

The garden targets householders that experience greater levels of deprivation; these residents are located in the northerly part of the Braehead community (this is where 26 of the eligible postal codes are). Many of these residents are located a stone's throw to the community garden (e.g., FK7 7PU, FK7 7RD, FK7 7RE); all are within easy walking distance.

Based on the 2011 Census Results there are 1,100 households in the Braehead & District Community Council area; as noted, the great majority of these are in the boundaries described above. The resident population is 2,357 with a population density of 673 persons per square kilometre.

A more accurate demographic analysis is available through Scotland's official statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk) that uses more current information and drills down to specific datazones and intermediate zones. The Braehead intermediate zone is similar to the Braehead and District Community Council area and is made of three datazones: S01013064, S01013065 and S01013066. The two current datazones that best reflect the residential area outlined above are S01013064 and

S01013065. Data from the official statistics have been extracted and are included as an attachment. Highlights from this information (for combined datazones S01013064 and S01013065) are:

- In 2016 the population was 1695.
- Of this number, children made up 17%, working age 61%, and pensioners 22%.
- 15% of the population is income deprived
- 15% of the working age population is employment deprived
- S01013064 is ranked 2,200 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation; S01013065 is ranked 2,205, out of 6,976 zones. (The lower the ranking the more deprived an area is

A Health and Wellbeing profile of the Braehead Intermediate zone is appended (Appendix 3). It shows a worse rate than the Scottish average, on some indicators. These include indicators related to drug and alcohol use, and to mental health.

Community Consultation

As early as 2005, community residents expressed interest in a community garden. In the Braehead and Craigs Local Community Plan, a proposed action was to “explore feasibility of community garden”.

During 2008-2009 the Braehead Community Council surveyed 836 local households to assess community interest in allotments (this is included in our application – *Braehead District Allotment Survey – 2009*). Of the 131 responses, 73% expressed an interest and twenty individuals expressed an interest in joining an allotments committee.

In 2012 and 2013 the Community Council ran a comprehensive community consultation to understand views about the proposed Braehead Community Garden, and to gauge interest and support. At the time of the second phase of this engagement, in September 2013, surveys found that:

- 78% of respondents knew about the proposed garden
- 72% never or rarely used the green space where the community garden would be
- 81% described the green space as currently being in poor or fair condition
- 54% never or only sometimes interacted with other members of the community
- 63% rated the feeling of engagement and connection with the local community as poor or fair

- 86% expressed interest in being more involved in their local community
- 97% felt a community garden would increase their sense of pride in the community
- 39% rated their level of physical activity as poor or fair; 39% as good; 22% as excellent
- While frequency of fitness was good (89% took part in physical activity more than once a week), 89% expressed interest in being more active
- There was a good level of connection with growing food; 43% currently grow food
- 70% expressed an interest in growing food in a raised bed in the garden, which implies that while some people are growing food, they are interested in growing more (possibly because of limited space)
- Of the 37 people who filled in surveys, 12 asked to be kept updated, and 15 of these individuals offered to volunteer – a 73% level of engagement
- Locals signed up to be committee members, to fundraise, to teach others about growing food, to plan events, to do general maintenance, and to do odd jobs/repairs in the garden

Community Organisations

As part of the consultation process we connected with a number of local groups and organisations. There is much support and interest in the garden:

Braehead Primary School

Partnership initiatives have taken place with Braehead Primary School, including a regular group of pupils who attended every Friday afternoon for the summer term 2017 to learn about growing. In addition the Braehead Primary School Parent Teacher Association have run joint events with the garden, such as the Pumpkin Festival in 2017 which featured a lantern parade from the school to the garden, enabling more families to find out about the garden.

North Parish Church

The minister expressed support for the garden from its planning stages, noting that the garden resonates with the priorities of the church – promoting a respect for the environment, connecting with the community. Garden members gave a talk to the church's Ladies Group about the garden and the congregation are regular supporters of the seasonal, open access, events held in the garden.

Braehead Toddler Group

Parents and children from the Braehead Toddler Group are regular visitors to the garden in the summer months, enabling the children to find out about plants and hens, and to enjoy the outdoors.

St Columba's Church

The garden has hosted a series of visits from the Sunday School, enabling the children to find out about plants and hens, and to enjoy the outdoors. The congregation are regular supporters of the seasonal, open access, events held in the garden.

Braehead Nursery

The nursery has expressed great interest in being involved in the garden. While the nursery has raised beds already, their interest is in engaging with the local community. They see the garden as an excellent place to create links between the nursery and community members. There is great potential here to explore joint initiatives in the garden – for example, story telling with the children; a biodiversity trail; a sensory garden.

Other community growing initiatives in Stirling

While there are a number of growing initiatives across Stirling, they do not in any way compete with the planned garden in Braehead. Other projects are supportive of the Braehead garden as it means there are more local people growing food. There is no concern about the Braehead initiative creating any tension for competing resources and demand. In general the other initiatives are either of a different nature, too far away, only for local residents, and/or oversubscribed. In the development of this business plan, all the local community initiatives were contacted about the garden.

A table outlining the other growing initiatives are outlined below:

Name/ Organisation	Description	Distance from Braehead	Waiting list when BCG was set up
Culterhove Opportunities	Communal raised beds at youth centre space; 6 beds allocated to local community groups	1.8 miles	
Bridgehaugh Allotments	Traditional allotment site; 55 plots	2.2 miles	Estimated to be 4 years
Stepin Stones	Back court growing in Cornton for local residents	2.5 miles	
Raploch -	Site used by NHS for local youth	2.8 miles	

Kildean growing	project		
Bridge of Allan	Traditional allotment site; 44 plots	4.2 miles	1 person
Dunblane Allotments	Traditional allotment site; 48 plots	7.5 miles	28 people
Doune Allotments	Traditional allotment site; 36 plots	10 miles	5 people
Blane Valley Allotments	Traditional allotment site; 30 plots	25 miles	

5. The Garden

Infrastructure

The garden has been designed to be a beautiful and welcoming place for all members of the community. There is something for everyone in the garden – even for those community members who are not interested in growing food.

Much of the development phase of the garden is now complete, so the five year plan for many areas of the infrastructure focuses on maintenance. This section sets out what infrastructure currently exists in the garden, with a summary of any developments and maintenance planned over the next five years.

Growing Space

There are 100 outdoor raised beds, configured in small groupings and incorporating seating, to encourage community interaction. The raised beds are 450mm high with flexibility to easily raise a bed to 600mm for any wheelchair user who prefers a slightly higher bed. To maximise inclusion the entire garden is wheelchair accessible so that any bed can be selected by a wheelchair user rather than restricting these users to a specific area.

The garden is designed for minimum maintenance and ease of planting; a feature of this garden is that there is a weed suppressing membrane on all paths, and so very little weeding is required. Because people are growing in raised beds, no one stands on the soil, and so it is never compacted. There is no digging required, only hand tools are needed. The beds are 1200 mm wide and so the midpoint can be easily reached.

Raised beds are organised in small groups, encouraging small friendship groups to develop. The full plots have a bench built into the design of the raised bed to enable people to sit around their raised bed and to socialise with others. Gardeners are renowned for their sociability - always asking one another about their vegetables; sharing ideas. Young families who haven't done any food growing in the past learn from experience and older members; this encourages intergenerational exchange and the development of new friendships.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Planting a pumpkin patch at the back of poly tunnel 3 to link with the annual Pumpkin Festival
- Ensuring members have access to tools, canes, netting etc

- Developing and managing our composting area to top up beds as necessary and increase our growing abilities, by producing our own supply of compost
- Maintaining paths with occasional top-dressing and weeding as required
- Hosting workshops for members on growing vegetables, crop rotation, dealing with garden pests etc
- Development of a tea plantation

Polytunnels

Three large polytunnels serve as growing space for tender plants, potting sheds and as an indoor events space. The polytunnels allow the garden to be used all year round and in all types of weather. All “growing” members have an allocated raised bed in one of the polytunnels, as well as their outdoor raised bed, encouraging people to grow a wide range of food and to participate in the life of the garden all year round.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Replacing polytunnel covers as necessary, every 5 years or so; this cost has been built into year 6, and will be financed through the garden’s reserve.
- Flooring polytunnel 3 to provide a more adaptable indoor space for holding functions in the garden

Water Collection

The polytunnels and tool sheds have a large roof area, providing the opportunity to collect significant amounts of rainwater - over 200,000 litres per year. This rainwater is harvested to water indoor polytunnel plants and outdoor plants in times of drought. Covered water butts (approximately 2,000 litre capacity each) store the water and are accessible to garden users. In the future we hope to connect the site to the mains and sewage connection in order to replace the chemical toilet with a flush toilet and running water on site. However, to encourage sustainability in the garden, rainwater will continue to be the priority system for watering plants.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Exploring opportunities to fund a connection to mains water and sewerage.

Nature Trail

The large size of the garden allowed for the introduction of a nature trail along the south side. Soil from site clearance work was piled into small mounds along the trail and sown with wildflower seed, creating visual interest in a flat site and encouraging natural play for children. A wetland area with a viewing platform, was created in 2017.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Continually adding features and interest to encourage members' use of the trail – for example through the recent addition of a series of natural wooden “fairy house” sculptures by one of the garden members.
- Planting and further developing the wetland area in 2018.

Children's Facilities

A circular seating area is located at one end of the nature trail. As well as being regularly used by the children of garden members, the area is in regular use for meetings of local Brownie and Guide units. The local schools have their own growing space so do not require raised beds in the community garden. However, teachers bring classes to the garden for learning purposes and see great potential in engaging the children in the life of the community through the garden.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Developing the children's features in the garden – for example a wooden play feature, a covered sand pit for toddlers and a sand boules area.

Trees

A number of native trees have been planted on the site, including 35 fruit trees. A variety of trees and shrubs planted alongside the fence will help to make the garden visually attractive from the surrounding housing and act as a shelterbelt for the garden. The site did not originally contain any trees and was of very low plant biodiversity.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Regular inspection and maintenance of the trees, replacing them as necessary. There are organisations, such as the Woodland Trust and Central Scotland Green Network Trust, which may provide free native trees.
- Removing weeds from around the bases of all trees.
- Developing this woodland corridor as a wildlife habitat by adding bird boxes, insect hotels, etc.

Wildlife Planting

Strips of wildlife planting, known as “nectar beds”, are used to break up the raised bed growing area, improving aesthetics, breaking the space into smaller groups of raised beds, and providing food and habitat for wildlife. The plants in these nectar beds have been particularly chosen to attract pollinating insects to improve yields, and to offer food and shelter for wildlife through the winter.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Regular maintenance of the beds at volunteer action days
- Replacing any plants as necessary to ensure the beds continue to support the needs of pollinators

Orchard

Thirty-five fruit trees, including heritage varieties of apples, pears and plums, were planted by members in January 2017. The planting day was run as a workshop to ensure that members felt confident in the care and maintenance of the trees. The purchase of the trees and the workshop were funded with a grant from Network Rail.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Regular maintenance at volunteer action days, including removing weeds from around the bases, pruning annually, and ensuring that stakes and protective sleeves are maintained.
- Hosting workshops to upskill members in the maintenance of fruit trees and the use of fruit in healthy recipes.
- Selling the produce to members.

Tool Sheds

Tools are communal and are housed in one of two secure shipping containers. The other shipping container is now in use to host community activities, including brewing and woodwork, and to store specialist equipment, including beekeeping equipment.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Fitting the toolshed roofs with PV units to generate power for use and to contribute to the grid.
- Increasing the use of one of the shipping containers by converting it into a workshop to host a regular “Men’s Shed”.
- Development of a maintenance yard

Apiary

A group of members received training from the Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers’ Association to set up and run a small community apiary. There are now two bee-hives on site and part of the shipping container has been turned into a small workshop for processing honey and storing equipment. While the bees are primarily there to help pollinate the plants, any honey collected will be sold to members late in the summer each year.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Adding a third hive
- Continuing to train interested members in the care of bees
- Production of honey for sale to members

Chickens

A group of members are responsible for fifteen chickens which are free to roam during daylight hours in a large fenced enclosure in the orchard. The eggs are collected daily and are sold to members.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Continuing to train interested members in the care of chickens
- Exploring potential for increasing the number and variety of chickens

Clubhouse

The main building on the site, the clubhouse, has a small office and a social area for members where they can look out across the garden. The cabin is of particular importance in the winter and during inclement weather, but is in use daily. It hosts the “Tuesday Club” volunteers, a Wednesday evening craft club, and a Friday after school club. It is a resource centre with notice boards, gardening books and wifi. It has tea and coffee making facilities and snacks, and a small shop for members to purchase Braehead Community Garden eggs and market garden produce.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Installing PV units on the roof of the clubhouse, subject to funding. These units will be connected to an import export meter and so will not only generate power for the garden, but will also generate additional income during the summer months.
- Exploring and seeking funding for a kitchen to support the preparation of locally grown food.

Technology

The clubhouse and the garden itself have wifi throughout. There is a weather station set up in the garden which can be monitored online, as well as a “chicken-cam” where members of the hen club can check that the chickens are securely inside at night.

Outdoor Seating

There is a large outdoor seating area with picnic tables. These large, round tables encourage members to socialise and meet each other when taking a rest from gardening. The area is in regular use for summer events such as the monthly barbeques.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Re-building the planned pizza oven, built with clay from the garden site itself. This was constructed by a group of volunteers but has since cracked and needs re-done.
- Development of outdoor viewing platform

Car Parking

The garden is set back from the main road to allow for car parking and a soft screen of trees. Parking spaces were determined in discussion with Stirling Council's Roads Service and are all sized for easy wheelchair access.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Replacing the stone bollards with a more suitable alternative

Safety and Security

Issues of access and security were raised throughout the community consultations, leading to the boundary design of a fence underplanted with hedging and shrubs.

The garden is enclosed by a 1.8m high see-through mesh security fence with gated access, which will eventually be screened by a mixed hedge containing prickly, berrying plants – providing additional security as well as high wildlife value.

The pedestrian entrance gate is kept closed while people are in the garden so that parents can feel confident allowing their children to explore the garden, and is locked when the garden is not being used.

There is easy access for police vehicle checks; hedging will be no higher than 1 metre to give maximum visibility across site; there is active community engagement and a sense of local ownership of the site, and it is hoped this will minimise any anti-social behaviour.

Low-impact safety lights have been installed along the main drive within the garden. Lighting has also been installed in the sheds and polytunnels so that the garden can be used during the evenings and winter.

We plan to develop this area in the next 5 years by:

- Installing a fob entry system instead of the current keysafe arrangement

Governance

Braehead Community Garden is operated by Braehead, Broomridge & District Community Development Trust (CDT). The CDT delegates the day to day running of the community garden to a management committee consisting of:

- A Gardening Coordinator
- An Asset Coordinator
- A Membership Coordinator
- An Events Coordinator
- The CDT Treasurer
- A CDT Trustee Liaison (nominated by the CDT Board)

The management committee is appointed annually, from 1st April to 31st March, and meets monthly. A Chairperson is appointed to lead the management committee. Decisions within the management committee will be agreed by simple majority.

Decisions affecting the following areas are reserved to the CDT: land ownership / lease, Planning & Regulation, change of use of land, change of membership conditions / fees.

The management committee can appoint additional volunteers, reporting to each of the four coordinators, to take charge of specific areas of operation of the garden.

In conjunction with the management committee, the Treasurer will prepare an annual operating budget in March, which shall be the operating budget for the coming year. This budget must be ratified by the CDT Trustees. The Treasurer will prepare a set of accounts for the Community Garden, which will then be incorporated into the CDT Accounts and verified by a suitably qualified independent person. The Treasurer will ensure that the verified accounts are submitted to OSCR by the appropriate deadline and in the appropriate form.

As of 1st April 2018, the current management of the garden is as shown in the structure chart below. The red boxes are volunteer positions that are currently vacant.



Membership

Garden members mainly come from areas within walking distance of Braehead. Although the majority are Braehead residents (who are given priority) the garden is also open to residents from other local areas as a response to the current lack of recreational and growing space in both Braehead and neighbouring communities.

There are two kinds of membership to the Braehead Community Garden – Growing Memberships and Garden Access Memberships, as outlined in the table below. Garden Access Memberships are available to people who do not want or need a raised bed but who would like to simply enjoy the garden as a positive community space – to walk, sit, take part

in a group activity or learn new skills. This means that although the garden has 100 raised beds, it can accommodate several hundred members.

Type of membership	Benefits	Cost	No. of members 2016/17	No. of members 2017/18
Garden Access membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the garden at any time • Benefit from all garden amenities • Free workshops 	£1 a month = £12 a year	64	70
Growing membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the garden at any time • Benefit from all garden amenities • Free workshops • Raised bed (includes bed, soil, access to harvested water, electricity, use of communal tools) 	£1 a week = £52 a year 10 hours of maintenance in the garden per year	77	76
			Total 141	Total 146

The membership numbers above appear relatively consistent year on year. However, they do not demonstrate the turnover of membership: 10 members left in 2016/17, and 12 new members have joined in 2017/18. Retention of members will be one area to be addressed by the Community Development Officer when this post is recruited.

For a Growing Membership, priority is given to those individuals/families living in the immediate Braehead community. A small number of raised beds are available to people outwith the Braehead area; however, if there is more demand than supply, our priority will be those residents located in the northerly part of the Braehead community – householders that experience greater levels of deprivation. The rental is for a period of one year, and will automatically be renewed if a resident wishes to continue with the raised bed. Only in cases where a bed holder has not been compliant with the terms of the raised bed rental would the rental agreement be terminated.

Copies of the Rental Agreement and the Rules and Regulations can be found at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively.

Children and young people under 16 do not require a membership, but need to be accompanied by an adult member.

Activities

There has been a strong focus on engaging the members and the wider community in the life of the garden, and we intend to continue to develop our community engagement and social activities over the coming years. To do this we:

- Promote and encourage involvement in the garden
- Increase people's skills and confidence to participate in the garden
- Host seasonal celebration days / open events in the garden
- Develop partnerships with local community groups and organisations

This section sets out how we do this presently and how we will continue to develop these areas over the next 5 years.

Promote and encourage involvement in the garden

We have engaged with local residents through a wide variety of methods (posters, door knocking, social media, website, and at other community events). Sign-up rates and attendance at open events suggest that residents are aware of the project.

Further developments planned include promoting new opportunities, among members and beyond to encourage local residents who may not wish to rent a raised bed to join us as Garden Access Members. The new Craft Club and Men's Shed are examples of these, as are Bee-keeping, Chicken-keeping, and the garden's regular social opportunities such as Tuesday Club.

In addition to these organised activities, there are other opportunities for members to socialise, including monthly barbecues in the summer, a Christmas get-together, and a Hogmanay bonfire. These types of events help to build members' sense of connectedness as a community and encourage them to get involved in the life of the garden.

As part of their membership, Growing Members commit to a minimum of 10 hours of volunteering in the garden. To help ensure this is a fun and social experience, we have a number of volunteer action days throughout the year, which all members are encouraged to attend. One of the members acts as a volunteer co-ordinator, ensuring that all members are supported to get involved.

In 2018 it is the Community Development Trust's intention to recruit a community development officer, a few hours per week, to ensure that activities to engage the wider community are undertaken and to support improved communication with members about the opportunities available to them in the garden. This person will be responsible for developing training within the garden, and outreach to the wider community.

To achieve this, the Trust has appointed a sub-committee to:

- Apply for funding
- Explore suitable contract arrangements, such as micro-contracting
- Ensure systems are in place to support the hiring of the officer
- Recruit the post
- Orientate the officer and provide necessary support as needed

The sub committee are consulting with Stirling Council's funding officer about relevant funding opportunities to create the post.

Increase people's skills and confidence to participate in the garden

We have provided workshops on a range of topics, including cooking with produce and tree planting. All members are encouraged to get involved in regular hands-on learning opportunities, from propagating and planting, to apiary and hen-keeping, to compost-making and maintenance.

We will continue to provide workshops throughout the year over the coming years. Topics will be decided based on needs of members (for example, workshops on growing techniques, dealing with pests, crop rotation methods, cooking with produce, composting, growing herbs).

The annual Horticultural Show, now in its third year, provides an opportunity for members (and the wider community) to showcase their produce, opening up discussions about growing techniques and choices, and leading to members trying new varieties and gaining new skills. We will continue to develop this event based on members' feedback and will introduce workshops to encourage participation.

We have organised visits for members to other community gardens across Scotland, including Bothwell, Fairlie and Pilton, and visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. We will continue this programme of visits to encourage members' learning.

Host seasonal celebration days / open events in the garden

The garden hosts a number of celebration days every year which are open to the general public. These include:

- Spring Fling
- Plant Sales
- Summer Barbeque

- Horticultural Show
- Pumpkin Festival

These are widely publicised, with posters, information on the website, and articles in the local press. As well as being valuable in terms of community engagement, they are a significant revenue stream for the garden, through sales of plants and produce, and other fundraising activities such as teas, raffles, and stalls. Tours of the garden are conducted at all these events and regularly result in additional members signing up.

We will continue to develop these events and to further encourage the wider public into the garden for these events.

Develop partnerships with local community groups and organisations

We are always looking to forge partnerships that can benefit local residents and encourage more people to enjoy the garden. At present we work in partnership with a number of local organisations to deliver a wide range of activities and opportunities to our members and others. These partners include:

- Forth Environment Link
- Girlguiding
- Bannockburn High School
- Braehead Primary School
- St Columba's Church
- Stirling Cycle Hub
- Recyke-a-bike

Further developments planned include:

- Links with the Biology and Geography departments at Bannockburn High School
- Links with local Nursery
- Continuing the recently piloted Dr Bike sessions
- Exploring opportunities for active travel such as the installation of a bike station

Evaluation

Our main method of tracking progress on the outcomes is through the membership and its annual renewal. Using the templates already established through the community consultation, we establish a baseline as new members are recruited. At the time of the

annual membership renewal, individuals are asked the same questions to identify any change over the year.

We keep quantitative records of the organised activities taking place and the numbers attending.

A members' Facebook page is in constant use to encourage active involvement of the members.

Participants at all workshops are asked to complete a course evaluation form, so that we can evidence increases in knowledge from attending the activity. A suggestion box is available at all large events, such as the Horticultural Show, to enable members to influence improvements. The committee meet to review and discuss such feedback and implement improvements.

6. Risk

A risk register is in place covering all aspects of the garden's operations. This document relates to strategic risk to the garden's ability to operate. The risk register is not a tool for monitoring health & safety, although this is covered as one area of strategic risk.

Impact is judged on a scale of 1 (no impact on the garden's ability to operate) to 5 (where the risk (severe impact, jeopardising the garden's ability to remain open). Probability is similarly judged on a scale of 1 (very unlikely) to 5 (very likely).

The management committee is responsible for reviewing the risk register at each management meeting, and revising it to reflect any new risks that emerge.

Risk	Probability 1-5 Low to High	Impact 1-5 Low to High	Overall Risk Rating 1-25	Recommended Actions	Monitor
Less than projected number of people renting raised beds	3	5	15	Increase outreach activities Recruit from beyond Braehead Hold more community events Reduce variable programme costs (see financial analysis) Apply for additional funds	Quarterly review of rentals and budget
Less than projected number of people taking out general memberships	3	3	9	Increase outreach activities Recruit from beyond Braehead Hold more community events Reduce variable programme costs Apply for additional funds	Quarterly review of rentals and budget
Expenses are higher than predicted	2	5	10	Analyse expenses, reduce where possible Reduce engagement programme Apply for additional funds	Quarterly review of rentals and budget
There are issues with the infrastructure	2	2	4	Work with quantity surveyor to determine issue, liability and solution If outside of warranty,	Quarterly review of garden maintenance; reports from

Risk	Probability 1-5 Low to High	Impact 1-5 Low to High	Overall Risk Rating 1-25	Recommended Actions	Monitor
e (e.g., raised beds/paths)				attempt to remedy issue through volunteer labour Alternatively, cover through reserve or raised funds	maintenance manager
There are serious conflicts between members	2	2	4	Management committee to meet with individuals – ascertain root of issue Brainstorm solutions with individuals; seek external help Develop agreement both parties required to comply with in order to remain members	Monthly review of garden operations, reports from Head Gardener and Maintenance Manager
There is concern from non-involved residents about the garden	2	2	4	Meet with residents, identify issues and explore solutions Proceed based on mutual solution process	Review community feedback mechanisms monthly (website, email, phone)
The community is not responding to engagement programme	2	1	3	Review engagement approach Host community meeting to ask for feedback Engage with local organisations to get input/ideas	Quarterly review of engagement programme and targets
There is vandalism on the site	3	3	9	Analyse nature of vandalism Consider if insurance claim justified Strategize solutions with management committee and garden members Ensure all members know about breach and are on alert Fix any damage – using volunteer labour where possible	Regular review of garden security and any breaches
Injury to members or the public	3	4	12	Analyse cause of injury Consider if insurance claim justified Strategize solutions with management committee and garden members	Regular review of garden safety by walk-round and at committee meetings All groups / clubs

Risk	Probability 1-5 Low to High	Impact 1-5 Low to High	Overall Risk Rating 1-25	Recommended Actions	Monitor
				<p>Address any dangers – using volunteer labour where possible</p> <p>Ensure all members know about any danger remaining e.g. through signage; emails</p>	<p>/ activities / workshops are asked to assess the risk and ensure that all participants are suitably trained in the use of equipment. Management committee review incident following any serious injury or near miss</p>

7. APPENDICES

- 1. Braehead Community Garden Annual Raised Bed Agreement**
- 2. Braehead Community Garden Rules and Regulations**
- 3. Health and Wellbeing Profile – Braehead Intermediate Zone**