

Kinneil Walled Garden Masterplan Consultation CONSULTATION REPORT



Overview

Falkirk Council's nursery operating in Kinneil Walled Garden closed in June 2019. There is one sitting tenant remaining on this site; Sustainable Thinking Scotland Community Interest Company, who use part of the walled garden for biochar production and for food growing for the local food bank.

Ideas for how the site could be used in future were pulled together at a stakeholder meeting in June 2019. These potential uses for the walled garden were subject to a wider consultation with stakeholders and members of the public, with information for the public consultation made available at <https://say.falkirk.gov.uk/>

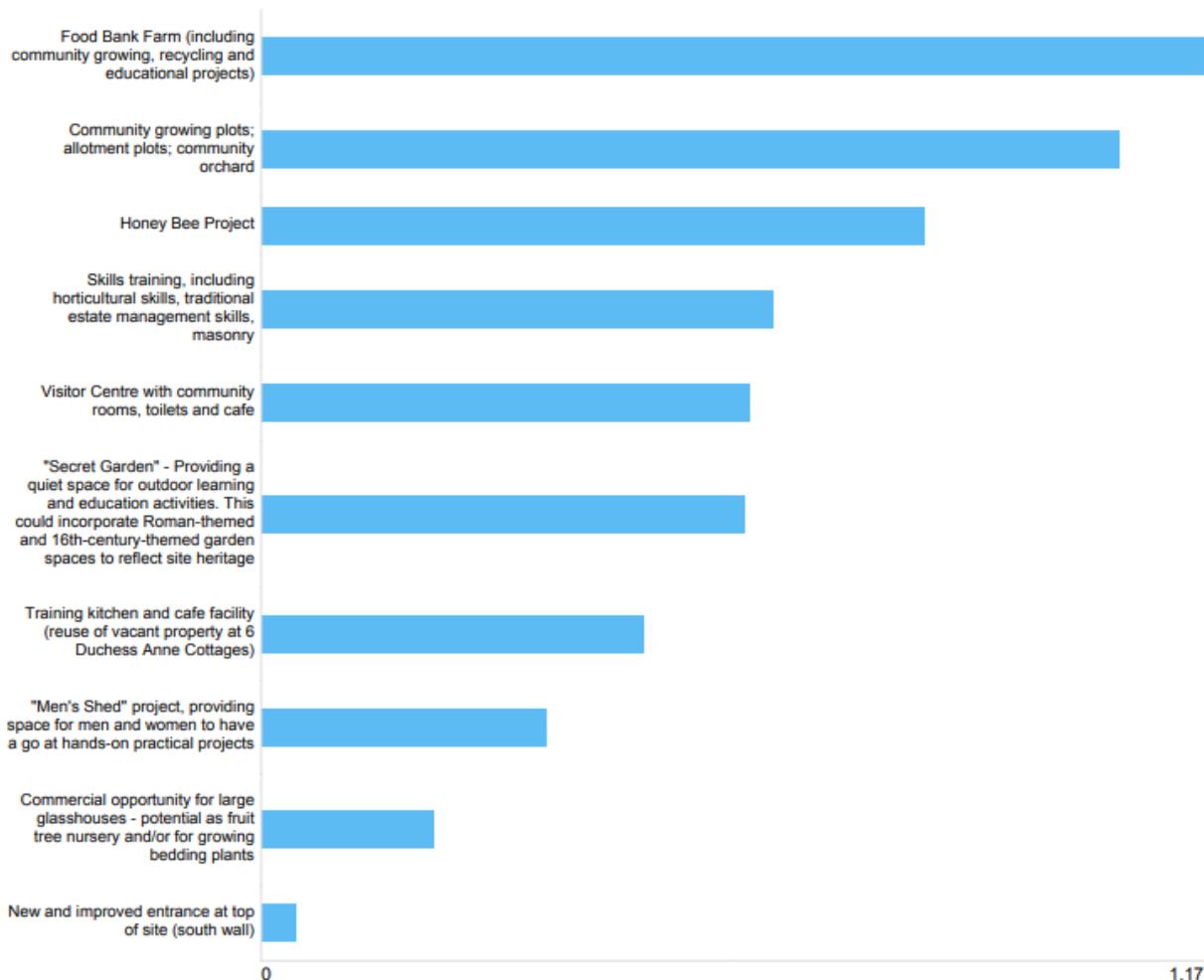
The 6-week public consultation ran from 17th October - 2nd December 2019. During this period, we received responses from 206 people, 4 of whom were responding on behalf of a group. Responses from this will help us create a site masterplan highlighting how best to take forward aspirations from local residents, local interest groups and other key stakeholders.

Q1 Respondents were asked to indicate the **extent to which they supported a range of ideas** for how the Walled Garden could be used:

Idea	Strongly support or support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose or strongly oppose
Community growing	173	25	8
Outdoor learning and educational activity space	171	28	7
Food Bank Farm (including community growing, recycling and educational projects)	166	24	16
Honey bee project	165	29	12
Skills training venue (including horticultural training, traditional estate management skills, masonry skills)	161	34	11
Visitor Centre with toilets, community rooms, café	140	37	29
Training kitchen and café facility (within 6 Duchess Anne Cottage)	134	35	37
"Secret Garden" - Roman-themed garden and 16 th century themed garden reflecting site heritage	128	47	31
"Men's Shed"-style project	113	60	33
Glasshouses used as a tree/fruit tree nursery	100	64	42

Q2 Respondents were asked to **rank their top 3 ideas and suggestions** to show what they would most like to see happen within Kinneil Walled Garden:

Ranking of 'Rank ideas'



	Ranking
Food Bank Farm (including community growing, recycling and educational projects)	1.17
Community growing plots; allotment plots; community orchard	1.07
Honey Bee Project	0.83
Skills training, including horticultural skills, traditional estate management skills, masonry	0.64
Visitor Centre with community rooms, toilets and café	0.61
“Secret Garden” – Providing a quiet space for outdoor learning and education activities. This could incorporate Roman-themed and 16 th Century-themed garden spaces to reflect site heritage	0.60
Training kitchen and café facility (reuse of vacant property at 6 Duchess Anne Cottages)	0.48
“Men’s Shed” project, providing space for men and women to have a go at hands-on practical projects	0.35
Commercial opportunity for large glasshouses – potential as fruit tree nursery and/or for growing bedding plants	0.21
New and improved entrance at top of site (south wall)	0.04

Q3 Respondents were asked to **tell us their ideas** for Kinneil Walled Garden. There were 66 responses to this question. The table below details those ideas suggested that had not been highlighted in the previous stakeholder consultation exercise:

1	A use of the walled garden that is linked to community access and gets locals familiar and respectful of site is good. Gardening is my top priority as this was what it was originally for but developing skills and enhancing visitor experience are also important.
2	Animals. Chickens, ducks and geese. Petting zoo
3	Bike hire facilities could be a source of revenue for maintenance of Kinneil. Employability skills could be learned also by some vulnerable groups like disabled, long term unemployed etc.
4	Fantastic opportunity to exploit the Roman connection. A walled garden with a Roman heritage theme incorporating a much needed cafe.
5	Site is large enough to build a play fort for kids - cafe with on site grown foods.
6	Work with Falkirk college - training for gardeners, chefs, maintenance, guides.
7	Use for growing plants that can be sold on and/or planted in the town. With local authority's not providing flora and fauna, local groups could grow their own for the towns. Locals would support this for example at the Bo'ness Fair time of year, bedding plants would sell.
8	As for No. 6, this should be offered to the many people waiting for a council house.
9	Have you spoken with Green Kirkcaldy? They have developed a similar site and have looked in to very similar suggestions, and are indeed 5 years down the line with these plans. I am sure they would share learning.
10	There is a tremendous opportunity here to enrich this area, training offenders, educating youngsters and helping the bee communities survive. A cafe/shop, well exposed as a tourist spot, selling the fruits of the Labourers could bring in much needed funds to keep it alive for many years to come.
11	Catering school, cafe, information, supplement the museum
12	This could incorporate a paid service such as paying for certain training or funding through schools for this training, an area for berry picking, café or stall using produce grown on the land. This could also include a bee farm and patches of wild growth to promote biodiversity.
13	Think there is huge potential for the site, both in terms of training, activities for more vulnerable people and community use. It will need (not necessarily big) budget to initially support groups who take on facilities / activities to make sure it can get off to a good start. I think the site could offer a lot of opportunities become a vibrant place.
14	Community use with skills enterprises, which could also incorporate space for local artists/crafts who could offer apprenticeship opportunities.
15	I think whatever is done it would be great to have a place for the youth of Boness to have somewhere to go and get involved. A place to entice more visitors would be great, like a park with toilet cafe facilities.

16	Kids' areas and/or indoor play based facilities will be great for families to enjoy and bring lots of income. More visitors using the facilities then attract more investment that could support more training/development type activities in a more sustainable way.
17	Include as many school children as possible and those with mental health, dementia and PTSD. Have harvest sales to invest in other projects in the Walled Garden.
18	I think there should be a number of allotments/allotment-type growing areas for hire at a reasonable rent. With the uncertainty surrounding Europe; food imports being threatened it is an ideal time and opportunity to plan a venture such as this.
19	Food co-op to sell locally grown, reasonably priced fruit and vegetables to the elderly and disabled in the town. Or supply fresh ingredients for meals on wheels, for those who are not able to cook for themselves.
20	As a public health Dietitian working in NHS Forth Valley I think the cooking classes would be great, from seed to pot to plate, growing crops then using the produce in cookery classes. Upskilling individuals in our local community to shop cook and eat well for good health.
21	My daughter would love somewhere to grow and pick fresh fruit and veg locally as I don't drive. For example, we could have pumpkins patches, do harvest festivals, run classes for everyone, flower arrangements wreath making etc.
22	I think a lot of inspiration could be taken from Lews Caste on the Isle of Lewis. It's got a stunning cafe and visitor centre. Having a similar facility at Kinneil, even if smaller in size, would be fantastic.
23	The use should reflect and be related to the rest of the estate surrounding the house. Visitor facilities to such a unique historical property are required and would encourage visitors to linger. It could include elements of the other ideas also - e.g. growing beds, community involvement, sheds and social enterprise, and bee hives could all still be part of the visitor complex.

Q4 and Q5 of the consultation asked respondents if they were interested in volunteering opportunities and, if so, what volunteering activities most appealed to them.

98 respondents said that they would be willing to volunteer at Kinneil Walled Garden, but that they would like more information about the opportunities available.

A further 42 respondents said they were keen to volunteer in a number of ways, including:

- Food Bank Farm and community growing (28 respondents);
- Bee keeping project (11 respondents);
- Events, workshops and educational activities (5 respondents);
- Kitchen skills (6 respondents); and
- 'Men's Shed'-style projects (3 respondents).