



## Developing community growing

### Guidance for Registered Social Landlords in Wales

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#### What is Community Growing?

Community growing is a group of people coming together to run farms, gardens, allotments, community orchards, community supported agriculture and community managed market gardens for the benefit of the community. It comes in all shapes and sizes, from small raised beds to several hectares or more. For more information visit: [www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)

This guidance draws on examples of current housing-led community growing projects and explains how each has been developed. Follow the links to view the full case studies:

- **Brit Growers/Our Garden, Valleys 2 Coast** ([written case study](#))
- **Trelewis community garden project, Merthyr Valley Homes** (written case study)
- **Taff Community Allotment Group, Taff Housing Association** ([video](#))

Links are also provided to sources of information to apply to your own sites and ideas. Please note: this guidance is also applicable for wildlife and other outdoor space use.

<b>What does the community group want to do? (Aims and objectives)</b>		
<b>Brit Growers/Our Garden</b>	<b>Trelewis community garden project</b>	<b>Taff Community Allotment Group</b>
Social enterprise to provide food, training, empowerment	Allotment growing space	Provide green space to engage with allotment gardening and education activities
<b>Where to go next?</b> <a href="#">Community lettings questionnaire</a> is a useful starting point.		

<b>How is the group structured?</b>		
<b>Brit Growers/Our Garden</b>	<b>Trelewis community garden project</b>	<b>Taff Community Allotment Group</b>
Constituted group	Constituted group	Constituted group
<b>Where to go next?</b> <a href="#">County Voluntary Councils</a> are the best source of information on group constitutions.		

### How did they get their land?

Brit Growers/Our Garden	Trelewis community garden project	Taff Community Allotment Group
2 sites ( covering approximately 0.26ha)	0.0095ha (former garages site)	Taff Housing rent 5 standard allotment plots from the council on behalf of residents, staff, local community and support users
<p><b>Where to go next?</b> <a href="#">Site checklist</a> is a good document to see if your land is suitable for what you want to do. If you need to find more land other than RSL land then <a href="#">CLAS Cymru</a> can help.</p>		

### Type of agreement required by the landowner

Brit Growers/Our Garden	Trelewis community garden project	Taff Community Allotment Group
Funder wanted longer term lease and horticulture business being managed so a Farm Business Tenancy was chosen	Community garden tenancy agreement	Standard council allotment agreement
<p><b>Where to go next?</b> <a href="#">Agreement flow chart</a> asks questions to help you navigate to find the right agreement (if any). CLAS website has template examples that may be useful for RSL legal advisors.</p>		

### How is the project funded?

Brit Growers/Our Garden	Trelewis community garden project	Taff Community Allotment Group
Local environment quality funding; Valleys 2 Coast funding; Bridgend REACH – Street scene and community foodie; Local fundraising – jumble sale etc.	Tenants pay a small amount for allotment plots to community group.	Various including; Big Lottery Fund, Environment Wales, and regular contractors contributions.
<p><b>Where to go next?</b> Funding can affect how the group may choose to be set up and the agreement that is used. All three should be taken into account when considering the options. Advice on funding is available through <a href="#">FCFCG</a> funding and enterprise officers. CLAS website has template examples that may be useful for RSL legal advisors.</p>		

### How has the site been designed?

Brit Growers/Our Garden	Trelewis community garden project	Taff Community Allotment Group
The community group designed the site	The community group designed the site with support from MVH.	The community group designed the site
<p><b>Where to go next?</b> FCFCG development workers can help you develop your ideas further – maybe through a garden design course.</p>		

<b>Other considerations, e.g. planning</b>		
<b>Brit Growers/Our Garden</b>	<b>Trelewis community garden project</b>	<b>Taff Community Allotment Group</b>
On one of the sites it was a change of use and permission for polytunnels required.	Planning permission received for change of use.	No planning permissions required.
<b>Where to go next?</b> Link to <a href="#">FCFCG planning document / CLAS planning guidance</a>		

<b>Ongoing support received</b>		
<b>Brit Growers/Our Garden</b>	<b>Trelewis community garden project</b>	<b>Taff Community Allotment Group</b>
FCFCG; Community Foodie; Valleys 2 Coast; Street scene.	The group have received further training through MVH and FCFCG.	Taff housing association staff provide support through site maintenance, monthly site visits, training and publicising allotment. Support from housing association contractors.
<b>Where to go next?</b> FCFCG Mentoring, Twinning, Income generation training, joining membership organisation such as FCFCG or other networks such as Incredible Edible. How about a local network within the RSL area? <a href="#">FCFCG</a> development worker can help with all these ideas.		

Training for both RSL staff and Community Groups on community food growing is available.

If you are interested in receiving training please contact:

[wales@communitylandadvice.org.uk](mailto:wales@communitylandadvice.org.uk) or [wales@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:wales@farmgarden.org.uk)

#### **Other sources of information:**

- Neighbourhood Greens is a useful source of information and now has an information pack on [Edible Estates](#)
- Wildlife sites / Wildflower meadows – [Bron Afon example](#)
- Bug hotels – [Gwalia example](#)
- Open space development – [CHC Good practice examples](#)
- Space saviours – Generating ideas and action for use of outdoor spaces - <http://spacesaviours.co.uk>

