



BASSETLAW
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Select Panel 4



**Stubbing Lane,
Worksop**

COUNCIL OWNED ALLOTMENTS



**Denman Close,
Retford**

Councillor M T Gray (Chairman)
Councillor J B Rickells (Vice Chairman)
Final Report September 2009

Scrutiny is an independent, councillor-led function, working with local people to improve services

Introduction

The first meeting of this panel took place in January 2009, to conduct a review into Council Owned Allotments and make recommendations to further their use. You will see in the following report the extent of the scoping exercise and our recommendations.

Well what a box of worms was opened at this panel! From funding to security to writing a new policy to involving young people, allotments are a way of amalgamating young, old, different backgrounds and cultures. The list is endless.

We soon identified a link between working on allotments and being healthy. This has been shown by the joint recommendations between this panel and the Health Panel that was looking into Obesity in Bassetlaw. People can keep their fitness levels and well being by working on an allotment and the vegetables that they grow can be part of a healthy diet.

As chairman of the panel for allotments I would like to express thanks to the officers for their support and especially to the people who gave their views on allotments. We were impressed by the knowledge, enjoyment and commitment of the Allotment Associations. We learned about exciting community projects that are encouraging the local community to be involved such as TWIG (Together we Influence Gardening) which is organised by Tannice Ellis of Central Retford Tenants and Residents. I would like to make special mention of Daniel Cook, aged 14, who attended a meeting to give a younger persons view. It could not have been an easy task for him to deliver his speech to the Panel and answer questions. His practical approach and ideas for the future of allotments have helped us with our recommendations.

Finally, I would like to thank the Panel Members for their input. The use of allotments is important to our members and we want to monitor the progress made as a result of the Panel's recommendations.

Councillor M.Gray
Chairman of Select Panel 4



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1. Recommendations

1. Produce an Allotment Strategy

- The Council needs to have a clear statement of policy and principles for Bassetlaw District Council Owned Allotments.
- Produce an Allotment Strategy for the Council as outlined in the Scope of the Review and the LGA (Local Government Association) Growing in the Community Guidance in the next 12 months.
- The Strategy will address the key issues identified by witnesses such as:
 - the definition and management of derelict sites;
 - site security;
 - attracting people to become allotment holders;
 - encouraging young people;
 - supporting Community Groups;
 - under supply of sites in Retford;
 - surplus sites in Worksop;

The Strategy will also specifically address recommendations 2-8 of the review and issues raised in the review on site security, derelict sites and promotion.

2. Identify Existing Customers

Carry out a survey on the use of allotments in Bassetlaw

The Allotment Service should carry out a survey to identify the users and service needs and also the level of demand for allotments in Bassetlaw. The survey should identify;

- a profile of existing allotment holders
- the level of demand for allotments from people who currently do not have an allotment but would if there was an opportunity
- the level of demand from local schools for allotments
- a profile of the community groups using allotments and the demand for community gardens/allotments
- carry out a site survey of Council owned allotments to assess the condition/amenities on site

3. Potential Customers

Encourage the use of allotments by Young People, Community Groups and Schools

- We need to encourage the use of allotments by young people with more involvement of schools in promoting gardening and allotments
- Appoint an Ambassador/Champion for Bassetlaw to raise awareness of the benefits of allotments

4. Publicity/Marketing Strategy

Work with Public Relations Unit to produce a comprehensive communications strategy. The approach should include:

- utilising Bassetlaw News and A1 Housing 'In Touch' magazine to provide gardening information and publish the location of Allotment sites;
- providing a single contact number for people wanting to enquire about the availability of allotments;
- updating the Bassetlaw District Council Website to include location of allotment sites, availability of plots, single contact number for advice and information and the proposed 'How To' Guide

5. Produce an Information Pack for Potential/Current users of allotments

Provide information on:

- what to do as an allotment holder
- raising awareness of the role of allotment associations, how to set one up, how they can access available funding to improve the allotments
- promote the use of Allotment Watch and Selecta DNA* to increase the security of allotment holders

6. Disused Sites

Pilot Scheme

In Worksop there are many allotments that are currently not cultivated and consideration was given to making these available for potential users. It was agreed that the Council should consider carrying out a pilot scheme on their use. The Panel is recommending that:

- the Council should cultivate/spray the disused plots with chemicals to clear the land ready for cultivation
- the plots would be made available to residents and there should be targeted publicity in the areas where the allotments are located;
- take up should be monitored and the scheme evaluated

- it is suggested there should be an area approach starting with a pilot in Manton and subject to evaluation it could be implemented across other areas of the District
- the current preparation cost is estimated at £11,000. In order to carry out a pilot project the necessary finance will have to be identified and agreed. This can be funded through the Councils budget or by investigating other ways to fund the pilot project e.g. with partners

7. To Promote Healthy Lifestyles Through Allotment Use

The Council should investigate partnership working with Bassetlaw PCT (Primary Care Trust) to promote use of allotments as a way of encouraging more active lifestyles.

8. Open Spaces Study

As part of the Bassetlaw Local Development Framework, Planning Services has produced a Draft Open Spaces Study, which has been the subject of consultation. The final document may include recommendations on the provision and location of allotments in Bassetlaw. It was recommended to implement the outcomes of the Final Open Spaces Study.

Joint Recommendations with Health Panel Scrutiny Review on Obesity

The Panel were pleased to work with Health Select Panel 2, which looked at obesity in Bassetlaw. The Health Panel identified that having an allotment helped people to keep fit and eat healthily. Independently both Panels made similar recommendations. These recommendations are listed in Appendix 1 and they will be monitored by the Health Panel.

2. Background

2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – June 2008

Bassetlaw District Council's Select Panel 4 was tasked to review Council Owned Allotments by Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of its Annual Programme of Work for 2008/09.

The task was to review current usage of allotment sites, demand for allotments, conditions/amenities of allotment sites and identify best practice models from other Councils on how allotments could be revitalised with some investment to improve security and facilities.

The Parks and Open Spaces Unit currently work with the local Allotment Delegates and conduct an annual meeting with representatives from Worksop and Retford Allotments Associations. The associations have raised similar security and facilities issues. The BDC Unit have a small budget and resources to utilise each year. They conduct small projects each year with capital funding to replace fences and have also upgraded water taps. Recently, there has been a demand for allotments in Retford and there are now waiting lists. The occupancy level for Retford Allotments was 97% in June 2009. There has also been an increase in the number of people wanting allotments in Worksop, but sites are larger and so far have accommodated extra demand. In June 2009 the occupancy levels were 93% so space is becoming limited even in Worksop. The Unit also wants to encourage more local allotment groups to work with the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership (BLSP) to improve the links to health and well-being and also to the environment by maintenance of open spaces.

The review addresses the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities of Clean and Green.

2.2 Policy Statement

Bassetlaw District Council has a Policy Statement on Allotments which states that the Council will provide a stock of quality allotment sites which are able to meet the demand of residents from Retford and Worksop. It will do this by:

- continuously monitoring the allotment usage throughout the District
- developing initiatives which encourage all sections of the community to use and enjoy allotments
- actively promoting the Council's allotment stock and their benefit
- maintaining and developing the quality of the allotment sites owned by the Council
- ensuring that all relevant allotment law applicable to the District is adhered to
- seeking partnerships and additional sources of funding which can assist in developing the allotment service

2.3 Bassetlaw District Council's Draft Open Spaces Study

It has completed its consultation phase and further work is being carried out. This document will be part of the evidence base for the Bassetlaw's Local Development Framework. The Study identified 43 allotment sites, which cover a total site area of 42.83 hectares and are located across 11 settlements within the District. The majority of these spaces are located in Retford and Worksop. Of these allotment sites, 24 are District Council owned and 19 are Parish Council or privately owned. The National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommend 0.25 hectares of allotments per 1000 population. The Final Open Spaces Study will be setting the policy guidelines and setting local standards for allotments in Bassetlaw.

2.4 Allotments in Bassetlaw

Sites

The Council manages 12 sites in Retford and 12 sites in Worksop (see Appendix 2). The Council does have a statutory duty to provide allotments.

There are three types of allotments - Council, Parish and privately owned. There are two categories of allotment:

- Temporary - Land that is allocated for other uses but leased or rented by an allotments' authority. Temporary allotments are not protected from disposal in the same way that statutory allotments are.
- Statutory - Parcels of land specifically for use as allotments. These sites cannot be sold or used for other purposes without relevant consent. They are protected and have to pursue a formal procedure to change status.

Most in Retford are temporary except Grove Road. Most in Worksop are statutory.

Occupancy Levels

Detailed information is available at Appendix 3. In Retford the occupancy levels as at June 2009 are 194 out of a total of 201 available plots an occupancy rate of 97%. The only site with any vacant plots is Leafield but there is a derelict site at Milnercroft (enclosed). Most sites have waiting lists. Sites in Retford are smaller in size those in Worksop. Their total area is 13½ acres.

In Worksop the occupancy levels have increased over the course of the review. Currently there are 73 vacant plots (mainly on Stubbing Lane) out of a total of 308 plots – an occupancy rate of 93%. They cover 30 acres. There are council owned derelict sites in Rufford Street and High Hoe Road which have not been used for many years. Keats Crescent is not used and is awaiting re-measurement.

Costs

Sites cost 8p per square yard and water is metered and charged to tenants on usage. Concessions are given to OAP's and Leisure Pass Holders at 40% reducing the cost to 4.8p per sq yd. Shed rentals (per annum) are £3.10 and concessions also apply. Keys (for lockable sites) are charged at £6.65

Cheapside and £2.55 all other sites. The allotments are competitively priced compared to other districts in Nottinghamshire. See Appendix 4 for rental income 2008/2009.

The Council does not have a definition of a derelict site; how long they need to be unused before they are derelict. There is only a working definition and often the term unoccupied is used. Unused sites such as Manton can cause problems of fly tipping for local residents. It is hard work to get a site back to use if it is overgrown, as it will need spraying and ploughing. BDC works with Nottinghamshire Youth Offenders Service which provides opportunities for offenders. They clear vacant plots on the allotments.

There has been a bigger uptake of sites in the last three years. The approach taken by Bassetlaw District Council is that if there are more people on a site it encourages others to join them. Stubbing Lane and Claylands Avenue in Worksop have become popular because other people were using them. The Council has a small budget for spraying off and ploughing to encourage people to use sites. The annual budget 2009/10 is approximately £20,000 expenditure with £5,000 income expected to be generated from allotments.

2.5 Allotment Associations

There are two Allotment Associations in Bassetlaw - one in Worksop and one in Retford. The service has an annual meeting with the Associations to discuss the Budget and the way forward for the year. The Associations have 300-400 members but only approximately 10% are active.

Allotment Associations can access funding to support and develop allotments but the Council cannot access outside sources of funding.

3. **Scope of Review**

Terms of reference:

Following on from these discussions the Panel agreed the Scope of the Review to be

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION
<p>Allotment Strategy</p> <p>Bassetlaw District Council does not have an Allotment Strategy</p>	<p>Produce a Strategy which has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to Allotments • Current provision and management arrangements • Leasing arrangements and pricing policies • Site security • Budgeting provision • Anti-social behaviour in allotments

ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derelict Allotments • Attracting people to become Allotment Holders • Service standards and achievements • Plans to deliver the standards including promotion and resources • Timetable for monitoring and reviewing progress
<p>Existing Customers</p> <p>Bassetlaw District Council does not have a profile of users such as age, gender, disabilities, how far do people travel to their allotment, what do users want from the service</p>	<p>Survey of Allotment Holders</p> <p>To produce a questionnaire to send out to existing users on Customer Satisfaction to identify key issues</p>
<p>Potential Customers</p> <p>Currently Bassetlaw works with some schools and Nottinghamshire Young Offenders</p> <p>Try to encourage more young people to use the service</p> <p>Healthier Lifestyles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with young people who use the allotments <p><u>Health Select Panel 2</u></p> <p>This Panel, which began on 2nd February 2009 reviewed Obesity in Bassetlaw. It concluded in June 2009 and made joint recommendations with the Allotments review.</p>
<p>Publicity of Allotments</p> <p>Potential users need to be aware of the existence of allotments</p>	<p>PR Unit to draw up a Marketing Strategy to promote allotments.</p>
<p>Derelict Sites</p> <p>There is an oversupply allotments in Worksop</p> <p>The Council has two large derelict sites in Worksop</p>	<p>Panel to investigate the recommendations in the draft Open Spaces Study that is part of Bassetlaw's LDF Framework.</p>
<p>Undersupply of Sites</p> <p>In Retford there are waiting lists for Allotments Sites</p>	<p>Consider how to increase the supply of allotments in Retford</p>

4. Method of Review

4.1 The following Councillors were appointed to be members of Select Panel 4:

Councillor M.T. Gray, Chairman
 Councillor J.B. Rickells, Vice-Chairman
 Councillor B. Barker
 Councillor M. Bennett
 Councillor S.A. Greaves
 Councillor I. Jones
 Councillor J.W. Ogle
 Councillor J. Potts
 Councillor Mrs. M.W. Quigley
 Councillor J.C. Shephard
 Councillor Mrs. E.M. Yates

4.2 The Panel scheduled meetings with witnesses on the occasions detailed below:

Date	Objective	Witnesses
22nd January, 2009	To receive information on Bassetlaw District Council Allotments Service and produce a scope for the review.	Mr. J. Foster, Parks Development Officer BDC Mrs. D. Buckland, Admin Officer, Allotments, BDC
18th February, 2009	To listen to the views of the local Allotment Associations.	Mr. S. Hartley, Retford Allotments Association Mr. G. Padley, Worksop Allotments Association Mr. A. Needham, Hallcroft Allotments Association
12th March, 2009	To discuss the way to publicise the allotment service and communicate with allotment holders and potential customers.	Mark Heywood, Communications Co-ordinator, BDC
30th March, 2009	To look at the local community approaches to providing allotments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manton Community Allotments. • TWIG (Together We Influence Gardening) 	Kazia Foster, Pathfinder Project Manager, Manton Community Alliance Sarah Bonsall, Manton Resident and Member of GAP (Green Areas and

Date	Objective	Witnesses
		Parks) Tannice Ellis, Chair of Central Retford Tenants and Residents' Association and Project Co-ordinator of TWIG (Together We Influence Gardening)
30th April, 2009	To gain an understanding of how to encourage young people to be involved in gardening and allotments.	Daniel Cook, age 14, pupil at Valley School, Worksop. Winner of 'Plugged' Event for Young People writing competition – March 2009
30 th June 2009	To consider the Draft Final Report and Recommendations.	

RECOMMENDATIONS

5 **Recommendation 1. Produce an Allotment Strategy**

Evidence for Recommendation

5.1 **National**

There has been a nationwide increase in the demand for allotments for a variety of reasons:

- rise in unemployment and the recession
- the increasing demand for organic and fresh fruit and vegetables with the growing awareness of the 'Green Agenda'
- increase emphasis on quality of life
- encouraging people to have a more healthy lifestyle and reduce obesity levels - the outdoor gym
- a sustainable environment and reducing food miles
- valuable urban green space and wildlife habitat
- it has become trendy to have an allotment

In some areas of the country there are long waiting lists for an allotment – up to 10 years - in response to the growing demand. It is estimated that currently there are 100,000 people on the waiting lists nationwide. The total number of allotments in Britain has decreased steadily since the end of the second world war as they fell out of favour. In the late 1940s there were 1.4m allotments. By the late 1970s this had fallen to 500,000. By the end of the 1990's almost 200,000 plots had been sold off by councils around the country as no-one wanted them. The current estimate is that there are about 300,000 allotment plots left. It is a century since the Allotments Act was passed and they continue to provide pleasure and benefits to the local community. The Government has strengthened the protection of allotments to promote good health through exercise, good food and an understanding of food production and a sense of community.

There have been high profile national initiatives to increase the supply of allotments. The National Trust, which is one of the biggest landowners in the country, has asked all its properties to identify potential sites to create new allotments. The charity is also asking older people to teach the "lost skills" of gardening to a new generation as part of an initiative to encourage self-sufficiency and healthy eating. There will be 1,000 new allotment plots of varying sizes with small plots for new growers and larger ones for community growing schemes. The Trust aims to have them up and running by 2012 and will then review the situation to assess demand. It will encourage schools, community groups, charities, individuals and families to apply. More information is available on

http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-news/w-latest_news/w-news-growing_spaces.htm

5.2 **Bassetlaw**

Currently Bassetlaw District Council does not have an Allotment Strategy, which can be a comprehensive statement on what the service wants to achieve and the mechanisms to deliver the service that customers want. In 2007 the Council produced its Cleaner, Safer, Greener Strategy which recognised that the quality of the environment where people live, work and play affects and reflects their overall sense of well-being. People want to live in a clean, safe and attractive environment. In terms of allotments they are seen as contributing to the health of the community.

The Panel wants the Council to strengthen its policies to address the issues that were raised in the review. The service needs to identify site standards and maintain allotment provision. The Panel looked at examples of best practice and scrutiny reviews undertaken by other authorities. The reviews at Wansbeck District Council and Stoke-on-Trent had identified similar issues to those raised during the Bassetlaw review. The Stoke-on-Trent review had identified Best Practice Guidance on Allotments published by the Local Government Association called Growing in the Community (2008). This identified the need for a good allotment strategy to ensure that the Allotments service is working efficiently and effectively. It provides an opportunity for the Council, its partners, support organisations, allotment associations and individual plot holders to work together for common benefit. The guide provides a model allotment strategy and case studies of good practice. Key elements include promotion, resources, effective management of tenancies and resources and systems to handle hazards and nuisances.

The Panel considered that the Strategy is an opportunity to focus Council resources on key themes that had been mentioned consistently in the witness evidence. This included site security, developing a definition of a derelict site, evaluating the existing resources and systems in place to manage unused/derelict sites, possible future improvements and promotion of allotments. It should also include performance monitoring - possible measures are attached at Appendix 5.

The Council should take all the recommendations of this review into consideration in its new Allotments Strategy. It should establish a timetable for achieving the strategy and procedures and monitoring progress and be completed within 12 months of the review.

The Panel recommended that the Strategy should include:

- Commitment to Allotments
- Current provision and management arrangements
- Leasing arrangements and pricing policies
- Site security
- Budgeting provision
- Anti-social behaviour in allotments
- Derelict Allotments

- Attracting people to become Allotment Holders
- Service standards and achievements
- Plans to deliver the standards including promotion and resources
- Timetable for monitoring and reviewing progress

The Strategy should also ensure that it addresses the particular issues such as site security, derelict sites and promotion of allotments that have been raised in the review and recommendations 2-8 of the Panel.

Recommendation 1

Produce an Allotment Strategy

- The Council needs to have a clear statement of policy and principles for Bassetlaw District Council Owned Allotments.
- Produce an Allotment Strategy for the Council as outlined in the Scope of the Review and the LGA (Local Government Association) Growing in the Community Guidance in the next 12 months.
- The Strategy will address the key issues identified by witnesses such as:
 - the definition and management of derelict sites;
 - site security;
 - attracting people to become allotment holders;
 - encouraging young people;
 - supporting Community Groups;
 - under supply of sites in Retford;
 - surplus sites in Worksop;

The Strategy will also specifically address recommendations 2-8 of the review and issues raised in the review on site security, derelict sites and promotion.

6 Identify Existing Customers

Carry out a survey on the use of Allotments in Bassetlaw

Evidence for Recommendation

The Allotment Service needs to identify the needs of its customers. A profile of the allotment users in February 2009 identified that 70% of the 466 tenancies were male. Most of the allotment holders were in the age range 40-70 and the largest numbers were in the 50-60 age group (see Appendix 6). The younger age groups have the lowest involvement. This was supported by

representatives of the Allotments Associations with members mainly in the middle age range.

It was suggested that the service could also analyse the distances that people are prepared to travel to use an allotment. The available information indicates that some users are prepared to travel considerable distances. At Ordsall users come from Rampton, Leverton and across Retford; at Worksop there is a user from Dinnington and at Hallcroft someone travels from Shireoaks.

The Allotment Service could carry out a Customer Satisfaction Survey to find out what customers want as this would help the service to promote the use of allotments. This needs to be linked to a survey to identify local demand for allotments around existing sites to consider the long term provision of allotments. It is also important to understand why people want an allotment. Several reasons have been identified such as wanting fresh produce, keeping fit and healthy, helping the environment and the survey should find out what is happening locally.

It would also be useful to do a separate survey of the community groups and schools already using an allotment to identify ways to encourage more groups to be involved as now there as now rural studies/gardening are not taught in school.

In addition the Council could carry out a site survey of all its allotments to assess site/amenity conditions.

The aim of the surveys is to provide an accurate picture of the types of users and potential users in Bassetlaw and the service that they want the Council to provide. It will allow the Council to match supply and demand and identify gaps in provision. It should also look at alternative ways to access allotments such as community groups and new allotment associations.

Recommendation 2:

Identify Existing Customers

Carry out a survey on the use of allotments in Bassetlaw

The Allotment Service should carry out a survey to identify the users and service needs and also the level of demand for allotments in Bassetlaw. The survey should identify;

a profile of existing allotment holders

- the level of demand for allotments from people who currently do not have an allotment but would if there was an opportunity
- the level of demand from local schools for allotments
- a profile of the community groups using allotments and the demand for community gardens/allotments
- carry out a site survey of Council owned allotments to assess the condition/amenities on site

7. Potential Customers

Encourage the use of allotments by Young People, Community Groups and Schools

Evidence for Recommendation

There has been increasing publicity in the media about the lifestyles of young people and poor diet, which has led to increasing levels of obesity and diabetes. Anecdotal evidence suggests that young people do not know the names of vegetables, how they are grown or how to cook them. There are national initiatives such as the Department for Children School and Families (DCFS) Growing Schools Programme which recognises the importance of children learning about the environment and where food comes from. School gardens can be used as part of the curriculum to teach life skills such as maths and practical skills. Research has shown that introducing children to gardening at an early age can improve behaviour and confidence in children and contribute to mental and physical well - being.

<http://www.growingschools.org.uk/>

It also includes projects such as the Royal Horticultural Society Let Children Grow Initiative. This helps schools to make the most of gardening either in a traditional garden or by growing in containers. It encourages schools to create gardens and teach plant growing skills. The website provides practical tips on what jobs need to be done each month, vegetable of the month and recipe of the month.

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/SCHOOLGARDENING/teachershome/default.aspa>

7.1 Case Study 1

TWIG (Together We Influence Gardening)

The Panel looked at examples of what was happening in Bassetlaw to encourage young people to be involved. Tannice Ellis, the Chair of Central Retford Tenants' and Residents' Association has set up a project called TWIG (Together We Influence Gardening). The aim of the project is to help people manage their gardens. The project began after she had talked to people who did not know how to garden, but have large gardens. Her husband is a keen gardener and enters their large garden in the annual A1 Housing Best Garden Competition. They have an enlarged family with grandchildren and grow vegetables in boxes which causes quite a stir locally. He decided to offer gardening advice on design, general gardening and control of pests. Gradually his reputation has spread and he gives help to elderly residents. TWIG encourages old people to become involved with young people. Often young people seem to cause problems for old people but this project brings them together. The young people help the older people do jobs in the garden that can no longer do and they in turn help the young people nurture the crops as they grow.

The Group does not have much money and is a small community project. It has received funding from A1 Housing who gave a grant of £750 for equipment. They buy from E-bay and second hand equipment from Bassetlaw's Parks and Open Spaces Service to reduce costs. It uses

resources efficiently and effectively with very low running costs and it relies on the goodwill of the volunteers.

The volunteers are working well and are encouraging children to garden. The Group wanted to expand and have an allotment but there were none available in Retford. However a member of the Group has kindly allowed them to use her second allotment. The Probation Service prepared the allotment and the Group was given money to seed and plant. It wants children to grow vegetables and learn how to cook them. The Group has found that many parents do not know how to prepare and cook vegetables. The older and young people are working together. The young people will grow the vegetables and the older people will teach the young people how to cook them. This will help the children in the long term to eat healthily.

The Group has decided to involve more children and 27 volunteers from a local school are doing seeding. They are also planting pots and growing potatoes in bin bags for those people who do not have a garden.

In the long term the project wants to develop by having a big piece of land to involve more people, which will need additional funding for seeds and equipment. The aim is for the residents to be self sufficient in fruit and vegetables. A new project for the group is to build an eco greenhouse using bottles. They have applied to Grassroots Lottery funding with A1 Housing to work with Carr Hill School, Retford.

This project is an excellent example of some one in the local community having an idea, which has grown from a small acorn and is flourishing with the help of the local community. It is small scale and the community group has used its own initiative to explore available funding sources to develop the project.

7.2 Case Study 2

PLUGGED Event Winner

Daniel Cook, aged 14, attends Valley School, Worksop and was the winner of the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership PLUGGED event story competition. The event was held for Young People in Bassetlaw on 25th March 2009. He wrote about his passion for gardening and working on a neighbour's allotment and why he first became interested in gardening as a small child. He had entered a tallest sunflower competition at his Primary School Breakfast Club and won. He had the gardening bug and asked his dad to buy him a greenhouse. Five years later he uses the family garden to grow lettuce, strawberries, carrots, peas, cucumbers and a fruit garden. More information is available on

http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/services/leisure_culture/children_and_young_people/plugged_25_march_09.aspx

As Daniel enjoys his hobby so much the Panel asked him to talk about his experiences. He had prepared a list of actions that would encourage young people to become involved in gardening. He suggested that

- There should be 1 lesson a week of gardening in schools from nursery upwards to make young people aware of growing things
- Schools should have library books about gardening

- There should be an annual Flower Show in Bassetlaw
- Primary Schools should have their own plot in the grounds to grow vegetables
- A gardener from Parks and Open Spaces could go into schools to help them carry out a project
- An allotment plot could be allocated to each school in the District to get young children involved/interested in growing vegetables
- There could be an 'allotments award' for young people
- There is a need for improved water points to some allotment plots

Daniel said that his friends did not share his enthusiasm for gardening and did not work on an allotment but his suggestions would encourage young people to be involved. The Panel were impressed by his ability to attend the meeting and discuss how to encourage other children to enjoy gardening. He is an example of someone who could be a Young Gardener's Champion.

Recommendation 3:

Potential Customers

Encourage the use of allotments by Young People, Community Groups and Schools

- We need to encourage the use of allotments by young people with more involvement of schools in promoting gardening and allotments
- Appoint an Ambassador/Champion for Bassetlaw to raise awareness of the benefits of allotments

8. Publicity/Marketing Strategy

Evidence for Recommendation

The PR Unit suggested that the Council could use Bassetlaw News to promote the use of allotments as it is delivered to 95% of the 49,500 homes in Bassetlaw. The article could include a case study of an allotment, general gardening advice, and health benefits. It could be linked to community events, primary schools involving school children, the health and social benefits, and work with other partners such as Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to promote the environmental aspects of allotments. The information will encourage the use of allotments because of their financial, social, health and long-term environmental benefits. The aim is to raise awareness in the local community of the benefits and to provide factual information to people on how to garden and grow crops.

Other mechanisms that the Council could use to inform the residents about allotments include working with local newspapers such as the Worksop Guardian and Retford Times on community features or using local radio stations such as BBC Sheffield and Nottingham and TRAX FM who would be

interested in local events. Allotment space could be advertised using press releases by the Council and on the BDC website. The target for the promotion of allotments could be to let people know where to go to find out about allotments and where they are located. They can be encouraged to take the opportunity to have an allotment.

The Panel suggested that it would be useful to provide a single contact number for people wanting to enquire about the location and availability of allotments. We could publicise this with posters and information leaflets about the benefits of allotments.

The Service should make use of existing communication links to promote gardening and allotments. A1 Housing run an annual gardening competition for tenants gardens. A1 Housing could consider extending this to a Junior Gardening competition. There is the possibility of using 'In Touch' the A1 Housing magazine which is sent to all tenants to publicise gardening and the use of allotments.

The Council will update the Allotment website page to include handy hints and availability of allotments in Bassetlaw including Parish Councils and community groups. It will also include a single contact number for advice and information.

There is scope to work in partnership with local garden centres and suppliers to promote gardening; leading supermarkets to promote ways to prepare the 'veg of the month' and give people information about the different ways to cook and serve vegetables and the Allotment Service to take a market stall giving residents information about allotments, gardening and demonstrations on how to pot seeds. .

The long-term aim is to promote access to allotments so that people who are actively considering one actually continue the process and become a plot holder.

Recommendation 4:

Publicity/Marketing Strategy

Work with Public Relations Unit to produce a comprehensive communications strategy. The approach should include:

- utilising Bassetlaw News and A1 Housing 'In Touch' magazine to provide gardening information and publish the location of Allotment sites;
- providing a single contact number for people wanting to enquire about the availability of allotments;
- updating the Bassetlaw District Council Website to include location of allotment sites, availability of plots, single contact number for advice and information and the proposed 'How To' Guide

9. Produce an Information Pack for Potential/Current Users of Allotments

Evidence for Recommendation

9.1 Information to Allotment Holders

An allotment holder signs a legal agreement with Bassetlaw District Council and there are agreed terms and conditions. This includes using it only as an allotment garden; not cause a nuisance and to keep the allotment garden clean and free from weeds, well manured and otherwise maintain it in a good state of cultivation and fertility and good condition. If a site is not in good order it can affect neighbouring tenants with the encroachment of weeds and can also deter potential tenants from coming on to the site. If a plot is not well kept under the existing policy the tenant is sent a letter to find out why it is not being cultivated. There could be a reasonable explanation such as illness. If there is no action as a result of the request then a letter terminating the tenancy within one month will be issued.

The Allotments Service gives all tenants practical information on tenancy, duties and obligations, the regulations governing sheds and greenhouses and the use of bonfires. The Panel wants to include additional information to encourage new allotment holders. A suggestion is that it should be accompanied with a 'How To' guide giving basic gardening information, the equipment and tools that are required to get started and contacts for support such as Allotment Associations.

9.2 Allotment Associations

There are two Allotment Associations in Bassetlaw - one in Worksop and one in Retford. The Council has an annual meeting with the Associations to discuss the budget for allotments in Bassetlaw and the way forward for the year. If the Allotments Associations have a committee they can apply for grants to improve the sites, which the Council cannot access. An example was given of North Cheshire where societies have received over £20,000 in external funding. The Association in Retford has accessed funding. At Ordsall, funding has been utilised to purchase two containers, which are used for selling goods such as fertiliser, and one container is used to store equipment. The steel containers are secure and are difficult to break into and vandalise. Delivered to site they cost about £1,500 each including transport costs. This had encouraged people into the site and it was now full.

Other Allotment Associations could access similar funding to improve security on site, which has been identified as a problem for allotment holders. The Council's Allotments Service will provide help and support to any Association to apply for grants and complete application forms.

9.3 Site Security

Although it is difficult to access accurate data on the extent of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and break-ins to allotments it is a problem. Much of it is destructive to the gardening sheds and crops with repeated attacks. Equipment is stolen such as rotivators, which has a value and can be sold for money. Bassetlaw Council does try to deter vandalism with gates, improving boundaries and fencing, but allotments are often in isolated places and people are determined to gain access.

The Council could consider purchasing steel containers, which are difficult to damage and break into for its sites instead of providing brick-built sheds which can be attacked. It would save money in the long-term as people cause damage breaking into sheds looking for tools.

The Panel was informed of 2 initiatives to improve security on Allotments. This has been set up by working with local Neighbourhood Policing Groups. Neighbourhood Watch sells Selecta DNA at £8, which can be used to mark equipment and help to retrieve if it is stolen. Also Allotment Watch has been set up to increase security for allotment holders.

Recommendation 5:

Produce an Information Pack for Potential/Current users of allotments

Provide information on:

- what to do as an allotment holder
- raising awareness of the role of allotment associations, how to set one up, how they can access available funding to improve the allotments
- promote the use of Allotment Watch and Selecta DNA to increase the security of allotment holders

10. Disused Sites

Pilot Scheme

Evidence for Recommendation

The evidence to the review identified disused sites as a major issue in Worksop. The Panel explored the question of derelict sites and what the Council should be doing to develop them in great detail and had lengthy discussions before it arrived at the recommendation. Should the Council be doing more to prevent them becoming derelict if they are not let? There has been a bigger uptake of sites in the last three years. In Worksop there are surplus allotments to meet the existing demand and there is currently no need to use the derelict sites. Most people want to go on an organised site with plots in use and not feel isolated on a site with many vacant plots. This is related to site security issues. People do not want derelict allotments as it is hard work to get a site back to use if it is overgrown.

The approach taken by Bassetlaw District Council is that if there are more people on a site it encourages others to join them. Stubbing Lane and Claylands Avenue, Worksop have become popular because other people are using them. The allotments at Claylands were in a poor state but received money from Nottinghamshire County Council to upgrade and plough the land. As a result people have taken the plots as they will be easier to cultivate. Also Bassetlaw District Council has a small annual budget for spraying off

and ploughing unused sites to encourage people to use the site. This approach has worked on Claylands Avenue and Gateford. The current Bassetlaw District Council policy is to rotivate empty plots once a year within the available budget resources.

There was considerable discussion about two different approaches to dealing with derelict sites. Should the Council have a continual routine approach to spray and cultivate unused sites to maintain them to encourage potential users? This would be supported by general advertising in Bassetlaw News, BDC website and articles in local newspapers. This approach could be tested by the Council rotivating a piece of derelict land to be made ready to be used for allotments. These can be promoted to local residents and look at the response to find out how many people are prepared to take on an allotment.

Or should it leave plots and clear on a needs basis after the demand has been identified for a specific site? It would identify demand by targeted surveys and a feasibility study to find the evidence to support allotments in a local area including wider consultation with Worksop residents. There are currently allotments available in Worksop to let that no-one is taking up and the study could find out the reasons why.

To help clarify the way forward the Panel looked at what was happening in Manton. The Panel heard evidence that there is a demand by Manton residents to have a piece of land locally to clear and rotivate. New Manton Primary School promotes healthy eating and sells fruit and vegetables. Gardening on an allotment would give the children something to do that they like and parents could learn how to cook vegetables. There are derelict sites in Manton, which cause problems of nuisance and fly tipping for local residents and if they could be cleared and cultivated the whole community could benefit. Manton Community Alliance - the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder could be approached to support the project. Many people from Manton currently use the Cheapside allotments, which is the nearest site.

10.1 Case Study 1

To help the Panel have a clearer understanding of the needs of Manton residents and the long term proposals for the area they listened to a presentation by Kazia Foster, Pathfinder Project Manager, Manton Community Alliance and Sarah Bowskill, Manton Resident and Member of GAP (Green Areas and Parks). There is a proposal for Manton Community Allotments to be developed in a currently derelict area in Radford Street/ Lincoln Street. The quality of life for residents who live near the site is affected because of fly-tipping and nuisance. In Spring 2008 Connaught, working with A1 Housing, paid for architects to look at the site and produced a report with phased options for development. It is a very large site and would be developed over a period of time. The land belongs to the District Council but it has no plans for development in the near future. It is a more central site for access by Manton residents. Nottinghamshire County Council has done an audit of the site as it was being considered as an option to build a proposed new primary school. It is no longer an option and so is available for other uses by the community.

The original proposal was to change all the sites into allotments but now half will be allotments and half community gardens. The Panel has evidence that there are currently existing empty allotments in Worksop and there are questions about the level of demand for such a large number of new plots. The issue is to build capacity and demand with the local community to use

allotments. The plan is to start with the community gardens, which people can enjoy and then encourage them to move on to the allotments. The community plots would be the size of a football pitch and half sized for community groups.

In autumn 2007 GAP (Green Areas and Parks) carried out a consultation within the wider area of Manton including an open evening, visits to other successful allotment projects and asking local Members their views. GAP found that when they went door to door people wanted the site improving. The consultation produced a range of ideas for the site including a manager for the land, green gyms, wildlife gardens, secure with fencing and locked at night, and support and involvement from local people. The consultation exercise showed that people would be keen to have an allotment with a social use rather than 30 separate allotments. Groups of peoples such as young mums could be involved in a community facility.

There is a Business Plan for the scheme which includes the long term maintenance of the site with proposals for a café, a Manager for the site, areas for older children, sensory garden, out door gallery, nature trail, dog walkers route, barbeque area, plots for schools and voluntary groups and meadowland. It will be a social enterprise in the long term and the Business Plan includes the health benefits.

The development costs appear to be high but the funding could be accessed through the lottery. The group have been successful in the past in accessing money.

Further information is available on:

http://www.mantoncommunityalliance.org.uk/newsletterfile/Manton_newsletter_issue_24.pdf

10.2 Next Steps

The Manton Community Alliance proposals are for a large scheme. The residents in Manton have large gardens and the Council could encourage them to cultivate these as an alternative to an allotment or use them as a taster to move on to an allotment. The Panel was looking to do a pilot on a smaller piece of land at Manton, and investigated the costs of cleaning a site and preparing it for cultivation as an allotment site.

There is a financial implication to the Council, which will have to be found as an addition to existing budgets. The Panel identified a potential site and the provisional costs for Rufford Street (Spur Crescent) site in Manton are at current prices:

£8,000 - £11,000 including:

- To clear the site - Estimate £3,500
- To spray off and rotivate full site - Estimate £1,500
- To install new water pipe and standpipes on the site to comply with water regulations. Cost depends on number needed - Estimate £3,000 to £6,000
- The site will create approximately 30 full size plots (300 sq. yds) or up to 60 half size management plots for beginners.

The site is central and secure and as it is surrounded by properties it is a realistic proposal. As there are financial costs there was careful consideration given to the option of clearing the site first with the possibility that there is no demand for the cleared plots. The alternative is to advertise the site and wait for responses from people wanting an allotment. If there is enough demand to fill the site it could be reactivated. Consideration also has to be given to the fact that it costs money to clear a site of dumped rubbish and this could be saved if it was used productively as an allotment.

There are other options to be considered for funding the proposal as Councillors in the area could consider using their own funding allowance to support the project. The project could be done jointly with partners such as Manton Community Alliance or Bassetlaw PCT.

The Panel asked which approach should we take? Consultation with the residents first to find the demand and then clearing the land or clearing the land in the first instance and publicising the availability of plots?

Following all the discussions the Panel decided that it should do a pilot project and evaluate the results. It is proposed that the Council will clear/spray the site with chemicals to clear the land for cultivation, make the plots available and monitor the take up. It was suggested that we could use an area approach such as Manton and Retford and use targeted publicity in the area to promote the availability of new allotments. The Panel also recognises that there is a demand in rural areas and suggested areas such as Torworth could be considered. The final decision was start the process in Manton at Rufford Street and continue across other areas of the District if it was a success.

The Council could also explore alternative ways of funding the project. The Allotment Service has a small annual budget to clear and spray plots and the Panel recognised that the pilot will need additional finance. The Council will need to identify and approve the necessary funding.

Recommendation 6:

Disused Sites -Pilot Scheme

In Worksop there are many allotments that are currently not cultivated and consideration was given to making these available for potential users. It was agreed that the Council should consider carrying out a pilot scheme on their use. The Panel is recommending that:

- the Council should cultivate/spray the disused plots with chemicals to clear the land ready for cultivation
- the plots would be made available to residents and there should be targeted publicity in the areas where the allotments are located;
- take up should be monitored and the scheme evaluated
- it is suggested there should be an area approach starting with a pilot in Manton and subject to evaluation it could be implemented across other areas of the District

- the current preparation cost is estimated at £11,000. In order to carry out a pilot project the necessary finance will have to be identified and agreed. This can be funded through the Councils budget or by investigating other ways to fund the pilot project e.g. with partners

11. To Promote Healthier Lifestyles Through Allotment Use

Work in Partnership with Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust

Evidence for Recommendation

The Panel recognises the health benefits of owning an allotment and the Council should explore other opportunities to promote allotments such as working with GP's to include allotments in the health referrals scheme. It can be used as part of programme to maintain a healthy lifestyle with exercise and healthy food. Bassetlaw PCT funds the existing GP Referral Scheme (Go for Fit) where people are referred by a health professional to Bassetlaw District Council Leisure Centres for a programme of exercise, which will benefit their health.

The PCT and other partner organisations such as Nottinghamshire County Council could identify and sponsor a pilot project to encourage local schools to grow vegetables. By working with the Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership we could develop a good practice model for Bassetlaw.

Recommendation 7:

To Promote Healthy Lifestyles Through Allotment Use

- The Council should investigate partnership working with Bassetlaw PCT (Primary Care Trust) to promote use of allotments as a way of encouraging more active lifestyles.

12. Open Spaces Study

Evidence for Recommendation

The Open Space Study will form part of the evidence base that will be used to inform the development of the District's Local Development Framework (LDF). It has been carried out to ensure that the provision of parks, play areas, playing fields, allotments, amenity spaces and natural green spaces meet the needs of the local community in terms of their quantity, quality and accessibility. The recommendations of this study will help Bassetlaw District Council to develop new policies, inform future management strategies and target additional funding at areas lacking adequate provision. There was consultation to give the Public, Parish Council's, Community Groups, landowners and other interested partners a chance to provide information on any additional open space sites or the Council's assessment of their quality.

The study looked at allotment site provision in Bassetlaw – Council, Parish and privately owned.

Additional information can be found on:

http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/services/planning_building/planning_policy/local_development_framework/background_studies/draft_open_space_study.aspx

The Study may include recommendations on allotments including the lack of land for new allotments in Retford and the rural areas. There is a need to protect the existing sites and manage the current spare capacity in Worksop. There could also be recommendations on the future use of disused sites, the use of existing sites and the location of future provisions. The Panel agreed to implement the outcomes of the Open Spaces Study.

Recommendation 8:

Open Spaces Study

As part of the Bassetlaw Local Development Framework, Planning Services has produced a Draft Open Spaces Study which has been the subject of consultation. The final document may include recommendations on the provision and location of allotments in Bassetlaw. It was recommended to implement the outcomes of the Final Open Spaces Study.

13. **Joint Recommendations with Health Panel Scrutiny Review on Obesity**

The Panel were pleased to work with the Health Select Panel, which was reviewing Obesity. It became apparent that having an allotment could be an activity that would tackle obesity, as gardening was included in the Government guidelines for physical activity. The benefits were not only physical exercise, but could also provide psychological benefits, be a sociable activity, a family activity and produce healthy produce.

Food education had already been highlighted by the Obesity Panel as a key issue. Growing your own vegetables may not be cheap as there is a need to purchase tools, seeds fertilisers but it can provide a great source of healthy produce as well as an opportunity to keep fit.

The issues around how to set up an allotment or vegetable patch can be daunting and the Allotments Panel is recommending that the Council producing an information pack.

The other shared interest was around young families; traditionally allotments are seen as an activity for the older generation, although there are some allotments run by younger people. Obesity affects all ages and groups and the benefits of participating in gardening are for people of all ages that could be done by individually or as a group or family. The Health Panel was given the example of TWIG as a practical and educational project to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The Panel's agreed joint recommendations, which will be monitored by the Health Panel. The details of the recommendations are outlined in Appendix 1.

14. **Conclusion**

The Panel recognises the importance of the provision of Allotment Sites to the local community to provide a source of healthy food and also to keep fit. The review identified that there are several key issues that need to be addressed to ensure that residents have access to good quality, well kept allotment sites.

The Council needs to have an Allotment Strategy in place so that there are procedures to maintain a supply of well-managed sites. The Strategy needs to focus on identifying the existing and potential customers of sites and match supply with demand.

Publicity of allotments is key to promoting their use and the Council has a signposting role to the availability of sites. This is not just limited to Council allotments as there is a supply of privately owned and Parish allotments. The Council can also provide advice to people who want to develop new allotment sites or form an association. The review also learned about the role local community groups have in providing opportunities for people to use allotments such as TWIG and the proposals for Manton Community Garden.

There are several large allotment sites in Worksop that are derelict and the review gave lengthy consideration about the way forward. It decided that an appropriate way to test the model and demand for sites was to do a small-scale pilot project. The proposal is to clear 6 plots and monitor the take up of the sites. If successful the model can be tried in other areas of Bassetlaw.

Finally, the Panel agreed to make links to Health Panel 2 on Obesity to support their recommendations on the provision of allotments and the health benefits to all the local community.

During the course of the review the demand for Council owned allotments in Worksop has increased and occupancy rates are now 93%

The Council wants to maintain the supply of Council owned allotments in the long term and the recommendations will help the Council achieve this. However, it also recognises that there is a need to support other organisations such as community groups to provide allotment plots.

DETAILS OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION/REFERENCE

Crawley Borough Council	Final Report of Allotments Scrutiny Panel March 2008
Bassetlaw District Council	Open Spaces 2008 Consultation Draft Settlement location and public/private ownership of allotments in Bassetlaw
Harrow Council, London	Scrutiny Review of Public Open Space
Local Government Association	Growing in the Community - A Good Practice Guide for the Management of Allotments - 2nd Edition
Middlesborough Council	Overview and Scrutiny Board 12 th December 2004 Final Report - Investigation into Middlesborough Council's Allotment Service Provision
Northampton Borough Council	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Allotments (Water Charges) Task and Finish Group October 2006 - To investigate the Proposed Charges for Allotment Holders within the Borough
City of Stoke-on-Trent	Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations The Future of Allotments - A 'light touch' Overview Study conducted by the Environment Overview Commission November 2004
City of Stoke-on-Trent	Task and Finish Report September 2008 Transformation and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Asset Management and Community Benefit Part Three - Ways to Grow Allotments
Wansbeck Borough Council	Report of Neighbourhood Scrutiny Commission - Allotment Provision in Wansbeck - Review completed May 2008
TWIG (Together We Influence Gardening)	Gardening project, Central Retford Tenants and Residents Association

Manton Community Allotments (MCA/Connaught)	Report of Proposed layout of allotments
Manton GAP Group (Green Areas and Parks)	Community Gardens - Community Consultation Report October 2007
A1 Housing	Gardening Competition 2009
'Plugged' Event	Publicity for Young People's Event, 25th March, 2009
Location Map of Proposed Pilot Study	Manton
Bassetlaw District Council	Allotment Tenancy Agreement
Bassetlaw District Council	Garden Bonfires
Bassetlaw District Council	Conditions for Erection of Temporary Shed and Greenhouses on Allotment Sites

Further copies of these documents can be provided upon request.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Joint Recommendations with Health Panel Scrutiny Review on Obesity

Joint Recommendations

1. The Panel recommends that gardening information should be included in the welcome packs for A1 Tenants. This would provide basic information
- 2.
3. The Panel recommends promoting the health benefits of allotments/healthy eating/exercise in poster form to be supplied to all the Districts Health Centres
4. The Panel recommends working in partnership with local suppliers to promote gardening and involving other organisations e.g. Schools, A1 Housing and Primary Care Trust.
5. To further raise the profile of gardening as a family activity with the introduction of a Junior Gardening Competition that could be run by the Council in partnership with partners.
6. The Panel recommends the creation of both a Voluntary Allotment/Food Ambassador and a champion from within the Council to promote how to grow fresh food but also how to prepare and cook it.
7. Attend local events providing practical advice about gardening, allotments and the types of food to grow and how to cook it.
Promotion of allotments as a healthy activity through Bassetlaw News Articles

APPENDIX 2

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL ALLOTMENT SITES

Retford

Albert Road (temporary)

Leafield (Enclosed) – access now at side of 65 Trinity Road (temporary)

Milnercroft (temporary)

Milnercroft (Enclosed) (temporary)

Rufford Avenue (temporary)

Whinne Moor Lane off Woodlands (temporary)

Grove Road (statutory)

Strawberry Road

Manvers Road

Denman Close

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL ALLOTMENT SITES

Newtown (end of Strawberry Road) (temporary)
 Leafield & Denman Close (2 sites classed as 1 (temporary))
Worksop
 Claylands Avenue (statutory)
 Spur Crescent (statutory)
 Stubbing Lane 1 (statutory)
 Stubbing Lane 2 (statutory)
 Stubbing Lane 3 (statutory)
 Gateford Road (statutory)
 Valley Road – entrance between 94 & 96 Valley Road (statutory)
 Keats Crescent (temporary)
 Bracebridge (temporary)
 High Hoe Road (temporary – derelict site)
 Bracebridge Avenue (temporary)
 Cheapside (temporary)

APPENDIX 3

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL ALLOTMENT OCCUPANCY LEVELS – JUNE 2009

Allotment Site	No of vacant plots	No of plots 'on offer'	No of Plots	No on Waiting List
<u>RETFORD AREA</u>				
Albert Road	SITE FULL	-	9	1
Leafield (Enclosed)	7	-	18	1
Milnercroft	SITE FULL	-	8	9
Milnercroft (Enclosed)	DERELICT			1
Rufford Avenue	SITE FULL	-	51	5
Whinney Moor Lane	SITE FULL	-	8	3
Grove Road	SITE FULL	-	25	4
Strawberry Road	SITE FULL	-	23	8
Newtown	SITE FULL	-	11	6
Manvers Road	SITE FULL	-	13	4
Denman Close	SITE FULL	-	17	12

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL ALLOTMENT OCCUPANCY LEVELS – JUNE 2009				
Allotment Site	No of vacant plots	No of plots 'on offer'	No of Plots	No on Waiting List
Leaffield	SITE FULL	-	18	10
		Total no of plots	201	
			97% occupancy	
<u>WORKSOP AREA</u>				
Claylands Avenue	2	3	76	0
Rufford Street	DERELICT	-	-	
Stubbing Lane 1	SITE FULL	-	24	6
Stubbing Lane 2	54	1	70	0
Stubbing Lane 3	10	7	38	5
Gateford Road	SITE FULL	-	30	3
Valley Road	SITE FULL	-	11	4
Keats Crescent	NOT USED	-	AWAITING RE - MEASUREMENT	
Bracebridge	SITE FULL	5	5	
High Hoe Road	DERELICT	-	-	
Bracebridge Avenue	-	-	4	
Cheapside	7	10	55	0
		Total no of plots	308	
			93% occupancy	

APPENDIX 4

Bassetlaw District Council Allotment Rental Income 2008/2009	
Allotment site	Rental income (£)
RETFORD AREA	
Albert Road	115
Leaffield (enclosed)	133
Milnercroft	139
Milnercroft (enclosed)	-

Bassetlaw District Council Allotment Rental Income 2008/2009	
Allotment site	Rental income (£)
Rufford Avenue	643
Whinney Moor Lane	107
Grove Road	446
Strawberry Road	357
Newtown	113
Manvers Road	148
Denman Close	342
Leafield	392
TOTAL	£3051
WORKSOP AREA	
Allotment Site	Rental Income (£)
Claylands Avenue	639
Rufford Street	-
Stubbing Lane 1	382
Stubbing Lane 2	235
Stubbing Lane 3	322
Gateford Road	337
Valley Road	180
Keats Crescent	-
Bracebridge	-
High Hoe Road	-
Bracebridge Avenue	105
Cheapside	506
TOTAL	£3006

APPENDIX 5

Possible Performance Monitoring Indicators for the Allotments Service

NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.

NI 2 % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood

N1 3 Civic Participation in the local area

N1 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality

N1 5 Overall/general satisfaction with local area

NI 7 Environment for a thriving third sector

APPENDIX 6

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL CURRENT TENANCIES BY AGE RANGE		
Age Band	Total Tenant Count	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0 – 20	7	2
0 – 30	33	26
0 – 40	59	37
0 – 50	46	23
0 – 60	86	27
0 – 70	59	3
0 – 80	11	2
0 – 100	-	1

Tenancy Report

Gender Make Up Summary		
Gender	Number	Percentage of Whole
Female	129	27.68%
Male	325	69.74%
Not Stated	12	2.58%