

Allotment Strategy Engagement Results

This note summarises the results of the survey that was carried out on Citizen's Space regarding the Allotments Service, which ran from 21/06/2024 to 09/08/2024. The responses are being used to inform the development of an Allotment's strategy.

In total, 247 people responded to the survey.

An initial question was included to categorise respondents into three sets: those on the waiting list, plot holders or helpers and neither. The results below are organised into those three sets.

Are you a plot holder / helper? (Select One)		
Yes	212	86%
No	24	10%
Waiting	11	4%
Total responses	247	100%

First response set – people on the Waiting List

Motivation for wanting an allotment? (Select all that apply)		
Health benefits / exercise	10	20%
Food growing / cost savings	9	18%
Horticulture / nature / ecology	6	12%
Relaxation / hobby / leisure	11	23%
Socialising	4	8%
Sustainable living	6	12%
Learn new skills	3	7%
Total responses	49	100%

How long have you been on the waiting list? (Select One)		
Less than a year	5	45%
1-2 Years	3	28%
2-3 years	0	0%
3-4 years	1	9%
4 + years	2	18%
Total responses	11	100%

How did you find the waiting list process? (Select One)		
Very poor	1	9%
Poor	6	55%
Acceptable	1	9%
Good	3	27%
Great	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Total responses	11	100%

How could the process have been improved? (Select all that apply)		
Better site contact details	4	15%
Better site response	3	11%
Better information on the waiting list process	7	26%
Regular updates on my position on the waiting list	11	41%
Regular newsletter	2	7%
Total responses	27	100%

What size plot would you be happy with? (Select One)		
Full	3	28%
Half	4	36%
Quarter	1	9%
Raised beds only	0	0%
Any	3	27%
Total responses	11	100%

Do you think future tenants should be allowed more than one full sized plot? (Select One)		
Yes	0	0%
No	5	45%
Yes, if no one else can be found	6	55%
Don't Know	0	0%
Total responses	11	100%

Would you consider helping a current tenant on their plot? (Select One)		
Yes	7	67%
No	4	33%
Total responses	11	100%

Would you be willing to volunteer on an Allotment whilst you are on the waiting list? (Select One)		
Yes	2	18%
No	4	36%
Not Sure	5	46%
Total respondents	11	100%

Second response set - Existing Plot users

Motivation for wanting an allotment? (Select all that apply)		
Health benefits / exercise	159	20%
Food growing / cost savings	160	20%
Horticulture / nature / ecology	133	17%
Relaxation / hobby / leisure	176	22%
Socialising	64	8%

Sustainable living	79	11%
Other	15	2%
Total responses	786	100%

How long did you wait before you got your allotment? (Select One)		
0-12 months	142	67%
1-2 years	39	18%
2-3 years	4	2%
3-4 years	7	3%
4+ years	10	5%
Can't recall	10	5%
Total responses	212	100%

How did you find the waiting list process? (Select One)		
Very poor	7	3%
Poor	12	6%
Acceptable	58	27%
Good	79	38%
Very Good	56	26%
Don't know	0	0%
Total responses	212	100%

How could the process have been improved? (Select One)		
Better site contact details	25	10%
Better site response	14	6%
Better information on the waiting list process	27	11%
Regular updates on my position on the waiting list	99	40%
Regular newsletter	27	11%
Other	58	23%
Total responses	250	100%

Do you believe there is adequate provision of allotments where you live? (Select One)		
Yes	116	55%
No	61	29%
Don't Know	35	16%
Total responses	212	100%

Should available allotment plots be restricted to Trafford residents in the future? (Select One)		
Yes	157	74%
No	25	12%
Don't Know	30	14%
Total responses	212	100%

Do you think future tenants should be allowed to rent more than one full sized plot? (Select One)		
Yes	11	5%
No	74	35%
Yes, if no one else can be found	123	58%
Don't Know	4	2%
Total responses	212	100%

How do you travel to your allotment? (Select One)		
Walk	108	50%
Cycle	18	9%
Car	80	38%
Metro / Train	0	0%
Bus	2	1%
Other	4	2%
Total responses	212	100%

How far do you travel to get to your allotment? (Select One)		
0-1 miles	150	71%
1-2 miles	47	22%
2-4 miles	12	6%
Over 4 miles	3	1%
Total responses	212	100%

Has your plot been affected by flooding? (Select One)		
Yes	60	28%
No	150	71%
Don't Know	2	1%
Total responses	212	100%

How has the flooding affected you? (Select all that apply)		
Negatively affected ability to grow during the growing months	22	8%
Negatively affected my ability to grow / prepare during the winter months	33	12%
Affected the ease of accessibility to my plot / allotment	33	12%
Affected the enjoyment of my plot	17	6%
Lost produce / materials	23	8%
Not been negatively affected	154	55%
Total responses	282	100%

What support would you like with flooding issues? (Select all that apply)		
Improved drainage	68	21%
Support for installing raised beds	36	11%
Discounts on affected plots	27	8%

What support would you like with flooding issues? (Select all that apply)		
Guidance on how to alleviate the effects of flooding	28	9%
Not affected	126	39%
Don't know	35	11%
Total responses	320	100%

Do you harvest rainwater on your allotment? (Select One)		
Yes	154	73%
No	57	27%
Don't Know	1	0%
Total responses	212	100%

What would help you harvest rainwater? (Select all that apply)		
Communal rainwater harvesting facilities	66	19%
Subsidised equipment for plot holders	72	21%
Help installing equipment	58	17%
Guidance on what to do	41	12%
I already harvest rainwater	106	31%
Total responses	343	100%

Do you have access to a composting area on your allotment? (Select One)		
Yes (plot)	179	83%
Yes (Communal)	2	1%
Yes (Both Plot & Communal)	3	2%
No	25	12%
Don't Know	3	2%
Total responses	212	100%

Do you use pesticides to help you grow on your plot? (Select One)		
Yes	32	15%
No	180	85%
Total responses	212	100%

Do you use compost "with peat"? (Select One)		
Yes	26	12%
No	131	62%
Occasionally	47	22%
Don't Know	8	4%
Total responses	212	100%

What materials do you burn on your allotment during burning season? (Select all that apply)		
Green weeds	34	14%
Woody material	101	41%

What materials do you burn on your allotment during burning season? (Select all that apply)		
Nonorganic material	4	2%
Don't Burn	108	44%
Total responses	247	100%

How important is it for you to be able to burn material? (Select One)		
Not important	69	33%
Neutral	73	34%
Important	39	18%
Very Important	31	15%
Total responses	212	100%

Would you be in favour of a ban on concrete structures on allotments? (Select One)		
Yes	95	45%
No	51	24%
Don't Know	66	31%
Total responses	212	100%

Would you support a ban on carpet use on Allotments? (Select One)		
Yes	190	89%
No	10	5%
Don't Know	12	6%
Total responses	212	100%

Do you think the current tenancy agreement is up to date and adequate for use? (Select One)		
Yes	100	47%
No	61	29%
Don't Know	51	24%
Total responses	212	100%

If you answered "no" to the Tenancy agreement being adequate, which areas would you improve /include? (Select all that apply)		
Clearer guidance on Anti-social behaviour	32	10%
Clearer guidance on what constitutes a nuisance	45	13%
Clearer definition of what constitutes a cultivated plot	98	29%
More guidance for use of car parks	8	3%
More guidance relating to burning on plots	27	8%
More guidance for who can use the plot	41	12%
Other	84	25%
Total responses	335	100%

Is the Non-Cultivation Process effective? (Select One)		
Yes	45	21%
No	70	33%
No Opinion	30	14%
Unaware of the process	67	32%
Total responses	212	100%

Which area(s) would you like to see improved on your allotment site? (Choose 5 in order of preference, 1 being the most desired)	
Improvement area	Average score
Rainwater harvesting	1.61
Biodiversity measures	1.39
Drainage - engineered and nature-based	1.23
Maintenance of trees	1.19
Communal composting	1.11
Security - fencing / gates	1.08
Provision of raised beds	0.87
Toilet facilities	0.74
Water provision	0.6
Communal spaces	0.55
Community huts	0.49
Parking facilities	0.45
Pathways	0.45
Increased mowing	0.41
Access roads	0.40
Reduced mowing	0.31

Do you think your allotment rent represents good value for money? (Select One)		
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Disagree	4	1%
Neutral	25	12%
Agree	95	45%
Strongly Agree	88	42%
Total responses	212	100%

Does your allotment host community events? (Select One)		
Yes	159	75%
No	43	20%
Not Sure	10	5%
Total responses	212	100%

Would you welcome more involvement with the community? (Select One)		
Yes	127	60%
No	28	13%

Don't Know	57	27%
Total responses	212	100%

Would you support more volunteers coming in from outside of the allotment? (Select One)		
Yes	119	56%
No	24	11%
Not Sure	69	33%
Total responses	212	100%

How would you rate the council allotments website? (Select One)		
Very Poor	2	1%
Poor	18	8%
Adequate	32	15%
Good	11	5%
Very Good	2	1%
Not used the website	147	70%
Total responses	212	100%

How could we improve the website? (Choose your top three)	
Up to date waiting lists	1.24
information relating to allotments / growing	1.10
More data relating to specific sites	0.96
Information relating to social events	0.83
Information relating to policies	0.83
Forms	0.20

Would you support invoices by email? (Select One)		
Yes	186	88%
No	9	4%
No preference	14	7%
Don't Know	3	1%
Total responses	212	100%

Would you welcome an allotment newsletter for the whole borough? (Select One)		
Yes	166	78%
No	22	10%
Don't Know	24	12%
Total responses	212	100%

Would you welcome the reintroduction of a Trafford Allotment competition? (Select One)		
Yes	116	55%

Would you welcome the reintroduction of a Trafford Allotment competition? (Select One)		
No	38	18%
Don't Know	58	27%
Total responses	212	100%

Do you volunteer on your allotment? (Select One)		
Yes	110	52%
No	103	48%
Total responses	213	100%

What are the barriers to volunteering? (Select One)		
I already volunteer	78	33%
I don't want to	11	5%
Not enough free time	99	42%
I don't know how to / who organises it	23	10%
I don't feel confident enough	7	3%
I don't feel sufficiently skilled	8	3%
Don't know	11	5%
Total responses	237	100%

How can we recognise / reward volunteer contributions? (Select all that apply)		
Certificates of voluntary work	28	11%
Award(s) for highly recognised volunteers	50	19%
Celebrate good work through newsletters / social media	110	41%
Don't know	54	20%
Other	24	9%
Total responses	266	100%

Would you be happy to allow non plot holders to volunteer on your site? (Select One)		
Yes	123	58%
No	46	22%
Other	2	1%
Don't know	41	19%
Total responses	212	100%

Have you been involved in funding bids for your site? (Select One)		
Yes	26	12%
No	178	84%
Not Sure	8	4%
Total responses	212	100%

What would encourage you to get involved more in fundraising? (Select One)		
Support and advice	51	24%
Links via e-mail/newsletter	15	7%
Examples from other areas	48	23%
Not sure	98	46%
Total responses	212	100%

Third response set - Non plot holders

Have you attended a community event at your local allotment in the past three years? (Select One)		
Yes	11	46
No	13	54
Total responses	24	100%

What has or would encourage you to attend an event? (Select all that apply)		
Better publicised events	16	32
More variation of events	4	8
Local produce sales	13	26
Seed swop events	8	16
Community cooking events	4	8
Other	5	10
Total responses	50	100%

Do you value your local allotment? (Select One)		
Yes	22	92%
No	1	4%
Don't Know	1	4%
Total responses	24	100%

Why do you value your local allotment? (Select One)		
Visual enhancement	15	17
Limits further development	13	15
Good for nature	22	25
Good facility for the locality	18	21
Helps reduce heat in high temperatures	6	7
Acts as rain soak away	9	10
Other	4	5
Total responses	87	100%

Have you had a negative experience with your local allotment? (Select One)		
Yes (Border)	0	0%

Have you had a negative experience with your local allotment? (Select One)		
Yes (Burning)	5	18%
Yes (Anti Social)	0	0%
Yes (Parking)	2	7%
Yes (Overgrown)	2	7%
Yes (Flytipping)	1	4%
No Issues	13	49%
Don't Know	4	15%
Total responses	27	100%