

Minutes of the Community Food Growing Task and Finish Group

Tuesday, 4 July 2023 at 6.00 pm

In attendance: Councillors Coral Howard (Chair), Natasha Burgess, Will Cooper, Laura Cunningham and Sian Eiles

Also present: Councillor Mark Ingleby, Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- 1.1 **Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2022 be agreed as an accurate record.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1 Councillor Laura Cunningham declared an interest as a member of the Brockley Society (which worked closely with the Breakspears Mews allotment society)
- 2.2 Councillor Coral Howard declared an interest as an allotment holder at Trewsbury Road allotments.

3. Draft final report

- 3.1 Councillor Coral Howard addressed the Task and Finish Group – thanking members for their work, noting the key Groups' key findings, and emphasising the potential for community gardening in Lewisham.
- 3.2 Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) introduced the report – highlighting the outcome of the Groups' evidence gathering and inviting members to comment on, and agree, the recommendations.
- 3.3 In Committee discussions - the following key points were noted:
 - That consideration should be given to the funding available from section 106 to improve social value.
 - That there were opportunities in new developments to create new community gardens – particularly those being led by the Council.
 - Schemes being delivered by the Council could serve as pilots – to show what was possible.
 - That any work with schools should be led by people with knowledge of the education system.
 - That schools often had knowledge about the importance of community gardening but not the capacity to deliver on their ambitions.
 - That the Group would welcome additional resources and officer time to support community gardening.
 - That the Council should be bold in its approach.
 - Members would welcome further updates on the implementation of the recommendation as well as opportunities to be involved in the delivery of community gardening initiatives in the future.
- 3.4 **Resolved:** that the Task and Finish Group report and recommendations be agreed for referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm

Chair:

Date:
