

# Allotments and community gardens



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

A young person's  
consultation



# Introduction

The Welsh Government wants people in Wales to have happy, healthy lives full of opportunities.

Being outdoors and doing things like gardening is an important part of this.

So we want anyone who wants land for an allotment or community garden to be able to get some.

**An allotment** is a piece of land you can rent to grow vegetables or flowers on.

**A community garden** is a piece of land that a group share to plant vegetables and flowers on.

Allotments and community gardens are important because:

- you get to eat the healthy food;
- they help you keep fit and healthy;
- people from different backgrounds get to work together;
- everyone can take part;
- you learn about resources like the sun, water, soil, recycling and food;
- they help wildlife and nature;
- more open spaces get used by communities; and
- food doesn't have to travel long distances which is good for the environment.

In Wales we already have the **Community Grow Food Action Plan** that helps to let everyone know about the advantages of growing food and supports communities to grow food in community gardens and allotments.

But we want to do more because there are still many people waiting for land to become available.

This booklet lets you know about our goals and the changes we are considering, including possible changes to the law.

**We want to know what you think of our plans!**



## Our Goal:

We want to make sure there are enough allotments and land for communities to grow food in every local area.

In some areas of Wales it's harder to find land than others. We want people to have the same opportunity to take part in growing their own food no matter where they live.



### Question:

What do you think about our goal?

Comment:

## How are we going to meet our goal?

1. We want to write new instructions and guidelines for local authorities.

There is already information and guidelines for the UK but it doesn't cover all the needs of people living in Wales. Writing our own will help local authorities understand what they need to do to help people in their area.



### Question:

Should Wales have our own guidance for local authorities?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:



## 2. We want to help support people who own land to make it available for community food projects.

We are already looking at whether we can make some of our land available and are talking to other public bodies about doing the same.

We want to find more land that could be used so we can have a list or 'bank' of land that people look at to see if they could use it for allotments or community gardens.



### Question:

Are there any community gardens or food projects in your area?

Comment:

## 3. We want to look at ways to support farmers who want to allow allotments or community gardens on their land.

Sometimes farmers are afraid a project won't work, the rent won't get paid or the land won't be cared for. We want to look at different ways we can support farmers to make it easier for them to work with communities or school food growing projects.



### Question:

How do you think we can we help farmers make land available?

Comment:



4. We want to write a set of rules and guidelines so people know what type of shed or building they're allowed to put up on allotments or community gardens.

People may want to have a small shed or a greenhouse on their allotments. You don't always need planning permission to put these up but there are other things that may need planning permission.

Having a clear set of rules will help everyone to know what is and is not allowed on a piece of land.



**Question:**

Is giving allotment and community garden owners a new set of guidance rules a good idea?

Yes      No      Don't know

Comment:

5. We want to change what 'allotment' means in law so it covers community gardens and community food growing projects.

The way people use allotments has changed over time. Many people don't just grow food for themselves; they grow for friends or groups. Some grow things to sell to help community gardens or school projects. Changing the definition of 'allotment' will help make sure all these types of projects get the help, support and land they need.



**Question:**

Would it be good to clearly explain what 'allotment' means in the 21st century?

Yes      No      Don't know

Comment:



## 6. We want to allow local authorities to let voluntary groups, charities and other organisations run allotments and community garden services for them.

Many local authorities already work with groups who give advice and support to people on growing food, gardening skills and connecting people with projects.

Changing the law so that local authorities can give more responsibility to these groups could mean more people get the opportunity to have allotments or be part of community gardens.



### Question:

Should charities and other groups be allowed to run allotment and community garden services?

Yes      No      Don't know

Comment:

## 7. We want to make a register (list) and have a map that shows all the food-growing land we have.

There are many different ways land is managed for allotments and community gardens. Some land is owned by local authorities, some by farmers and some by charities. Having an up-to-date register and a map that clearly shows where land is and what land is available for people to use could really help.

It could also show us where we need to find more room for allotments and other food-growing projects.



### Question:

Would changing the law so we can have a register and map be a good idea?

Yes      No      Don't know

Comment:



## 8. We want to put in place a waiting list for community food growing sites.

All communities across Wales should have the same opportunities. We think starting a waiting list will help local authorities to quickly match groups with land and help them understand how much new land is needed for growing.



### Question:

Is having a waiting list a good idea?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:

## 9. We want to make sure there's a plan setting out how local authorities will work to find land for people or groups that are waiting.

Sometimes local authorities can struggle to find land for people to use for growing food, and there's no time limit on how long people have to wait.



### Question:

Should local authorities have a plan for how they'll find land and reduce waiting lists?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:



10.

We want to make it possible for local authorities and town councils to have the right to register and grow food on public land while it isn't being used or land without an owner.

We think this right could mean more people and community groups can have the opportunity to grow food and flowers.



**Question:**

Should there be more rights to grow things on unused land?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:

11.

We want to allow land that has been set aside for other things to be used by communities for growing food.

There are some areas of land like village greens, edges of playing fields, parks and land beside safe roads that could be used for community food and flower growing projects.

Not all land would be good for growing food because of reasons like safety, but we think this would help find more land for people to use.



**Question:**

Is this a good idea?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:





## Next Steps

### Last question:

Is there anything we've missed out?

### Thank you for reading this

We want to make changes that will make a real difference and help more people to have the opportunity to enjoy working outside in allotments and community gardens.

### We want to know what you think

Please send your answers by 6 October 2014 to:

[Allotments@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Allotments@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

or

Sport, Outdoor Recreation and Landscapes Division  
Welsh Government  
Rhodfa Padarn  
Llanbadarn Fawr  
Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 3UR

