



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Croftburn Allotments	Assessment date: 21 July 2018
Name of assessor: Helen Carroll	
Introduction:	
<p>Croftburn Allotments is a small allotment association based in Croftfoot in Glasgow. Approx 38 plots on-site, leased from LES, Glasgow City Council, the allotment has a secluded entranceway which is situated a few yards back from a small side-road. A busy growing community, the members are keen to work together to build and maintain their friendly community and to actively seek to invite members of the community to visit to see the work they do and to share growing skills.</p>	
Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)	
<p>Members are working hard to continue the regular fun activities such as open days, cookouts, jam-making and other cooking sessions to show how to cook the vegetables and fruit grown in the plots. A diverse group, plot holders will cook dishes from their own home country and share out during large events. They have a facebook page and a website full of lovely pictures and events (featuring large amounts of freshly-cooked produce!). Recipes are frequently added on request.</p> <p>They are also very keen to create a good relationship with the outside community (local nursery for example, and other community groups) however some members are not keen on this. Perhaps a case of not liking change? Nevertheless, David and Liz, plus others I met on my visit, are very excited about the possibility of having new opportunities to share their growing talents. They are currently thinking about a small community garden. I am sure we will see progress very soon in this regard.</p> <p>A very humorous and friendly bunch, their allotments are full and busy. They share experience, time and also volunteer to ensure that the administration and maintenance of their site is run efficiently.</p>	
Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	30
Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)	
<p>A very environmentally responsible community. The large on-site pond is fairly well established now and the additional small-scale ponds on many of the plots all encourage frogs and pond life (slug life decimated).</p> <p>The committee ask that all plot holders grow organically with permissions needed from them for any chemical additives on plots. Any biodegradable material has to be composted. Plastics and pallets are reused and/or upcycled with specific pollinators planted to attract bees and butterflies.</p> <p>Water butts on site also encourages use of natural rainwater</p>	
Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)	28



Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)

There is such a diversity of growing expertise on the allotments.

On the day of my visit I noted beautiful well cared for flowers and produce. I also noted an example of best practice with some local knowledge of problem planting (unsuitable for the soil and the area) that is planned for removal, significant consideration given to crop rotation and real community concern given for the wellbeing, maintenance and security of other owners' plots.

Plot design and use is very personal and individual to the owners. I found my visit enjoyable and the experience of the personal touches to each of the plots very special. An example of different personalities.

The overall site has been landscaped to show the area at its best and to allow the best access to plots.

The entrance to the site is very well maintained with work ongoing on clearing space for a possible community garden.

Pollinators, ponds, fruit trees, polytunnels, etc. Most of the plots are producing and, in my opinion, the standard is higher than last year (notwithstanding the hot, drying weather!).

Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	25
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED	83
LEVEL ACHIEVED	Level 4 - Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Sticking to their organic guns!

Their close-knit community and structure.

Taking their growing to the next level – cooking, sharing and inviting and including more people!

Definitely the individuality of each of the plot holders evidenced by the amazing work on each (give or take a couple that haven't managed to maintain their plot due to personal issues which is normal).

Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor:

Keep trying to bring in the outside community. Local schools, community groups, nurseries etc. Are there any housing associations that have elderly tenants? How about them adopting an area for raised planters or suitable growing space (supported)?

What about mentoring any person that would like to learn about gardening? Having them 'intern' on-site?

Offering workshops on different elements of growing with ongoing support? Check with housing associations or local service providers (schools?) to see if you can encourage parents/guardians to learn to grow their own produce/flowers with encouragement of their children (bring them in for a workshop and give them a choice of plants to grow at home – encouraging parents/guardian time with children and the learning of a new skill).

Croftburn Allotments adopting areas that need brightening up in and around any of the areas (planters, fruit trees etc?).





As mentioned earlier, I note that there are some volunteer plot-holders that help with the maintenance of the allotments. Might there be a chance of some support for plot-holders that are having real difficulties for one reason or another, to have some kind of help?

All in all, keep up the great work you're doing and persevere with the challenges you're experiencing. A brilliant experience of great work and a growing community that has a lot to give each other and their local community.

Hope to visit at the next Open Day. If only for the food!

RESULTS

Level	Description	Points
Level 1	Establishing	0-35
Level 2	Improving	36-52
Level 3	Advancing	53-68
Level 4	Thriving	69-85
Level 5	Outstanding	86-100

