

**Garden City Standards for the 21st Century**  
**Practical Guides for Creating Successful New Communities**

# guide 10

# edible garden cities





**tcpa**

Practical Guides for Creating Successful New Communities

**Guide 10: Edible Garden Cities**

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**The Lady Margaret  
Patterson Osborn Trust**

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Cover photograph courtesy of Incredible Edible.

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**edible garden cities**

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# The TCPA Practical Guides

Across the UK there is a shortage of housing, and it is increasingly understood that we need to plan and build new large-scale developments, in addition to renewing existing towns and villages. At the same time, many people worry that any new places built will be no more than soulless, unattractive dormitory suburbs. How can we prevent such outcomes? How can we ensure that new large-scale developments become socially and economically successful places – places that will improve over time, and in which people will want to live for generations to come? The answer lies in the Garden City development model – a proven way of funding, creating and maintaining successful high-quality places. A true Garden City is a place created following the Garden City Principles, set out in the box below.



National planning policy guidance on a range of issues has been greatly reduced, so practical advice about how to create successful new places is more important than ever. The TCPA's Practical Guides – on location and consent; finance and delivery; design and masterplanning; planning for energy and climate change; homes for all; planning for arts and culture; planning for green and prosperous places; creating health-promoting environments; long-term stewardship; edible Garden Cities; and people, planning and power – are not detailed handbooks but instead set out the scope of opportunities for ambitious councils who want to create high-quality, large-scale new developments, whether or not they are able to follow all the Garden City Principles. The Guides highlight key points for consideration and offer signposts to sources of further detailed information. They are 'living' documents that will be periodically updated to reflect key policy changes. Although they are focused on policy in England, the principles and key recommendations can be applied across the UK. The Practical Guides will help anyone attempting to create great places, for everyone, whether or not they describe what they are trying to achieve as a 'Garden City'.

## The Garden City Principles

A Garden City is a holistically planned new settlement that enhances the natural environment and offers high-quality affordable housing and locally accessible work in beautiful, healthy and sociable communities. The Garden City Principles are an indivisible and interlocking framework for delivery, and include:

- Land value capture for the benefit of the community.
- Strong vision, leadership and community engagement.
- Community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets.
- Mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are genuinely affordable.
- A wide range of local jobs in the Garden City within easy commuting distance of homes.
- Beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with gardens, combining the best of town and country to create healthy communities, and including opportunities to grow food.
- Development that enhances the natural environment, providing a comprehensive green infrastructure network and net biodiversity gains, and that uses zero-carbon and energy-positive technology to ensure climate resilience.
- Strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable, vibrant, sociable neighbourhoods.
- Integrated and accessible transport systems, with walking, cycling and public transport designed to be the most attractive forms of local transport.

The TCPA has produced an extensive set of policy and practical resources on Garden Cities, which can be found at <http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/garden-cities.html>

# Summary

Food plays a fundamental role in our everyday lives; from the way we socialise to how long we might live. But ever since wartime posters asked us to 'Dig for victory' our relationship with the way food is produced, consumed and managed has become increasingly disconnected.

UK households throw away a massive £12 billion worth of food each year, while an increasing number of people are relying on food banks. Waiting lists for allotments are at an all-time high as spaces are under increasing pressure for development. Meanwhile, the evidence of the multiple benefits of growing, processing and consuming food locally – ranging from tackling obesity to global food security – demonstrates that reconnecting people to their food systems is more important than ever.

The Garden City pioneers recognised the importance of integrating planning and design with the way we produce, process and consume food, as well as the importance of managing food waste. Drawing on the Garden City model by designing places which include sustainable local food systems can help to create healthy and vibrant places by facilitating:

- improved health and wellbeing;
- inclusive and sociable communities;
- environmental restoration and sustainability, including resilience to climate change;
- opportunities for economic development, investment and skills development; and
- improved amenity and good urban design.

Local authorities are required by national policy to consider opportunities for local food. But for ambitious councils there are specific opportunities when planning at scale which mean that aspects of sustainable food systems can be embedded from the outset – from the allocation of land for food growing, to putting in place financial mechanisms to pay for food initiatives in perpetuity. These opportunities include:

- ***In planning and finance:***
  - embedding local food system requirements in Local Plan policy;
  - considering funding for local food systems in scoping for Community Infrastructure Levy arrangements and Section 106 agreements; and
  - considering financial and stewardship requirements – including revenue and capital funding – from the outset and as part of ongoing public participation processes.
- ***In design and delivery:***
  - taking a landscape-led approach to design which embeds local food systems within strategic frameworks and within supporting economic and delivery strategies;
  - ensuring that urban design and architecture is flexible and 'food-sensitive'; and
  - considering 'meanwhile uses' for food as places are developed, and using food to engage new and existing residents.
- ***In management and long-term stewardship:***
  - considering food as part of green infrastructure and wider stewardship strategies;
  - considering options for integrating food and waste management systems; and
  - monitoring health outcomes, including opportunities for local food provision.

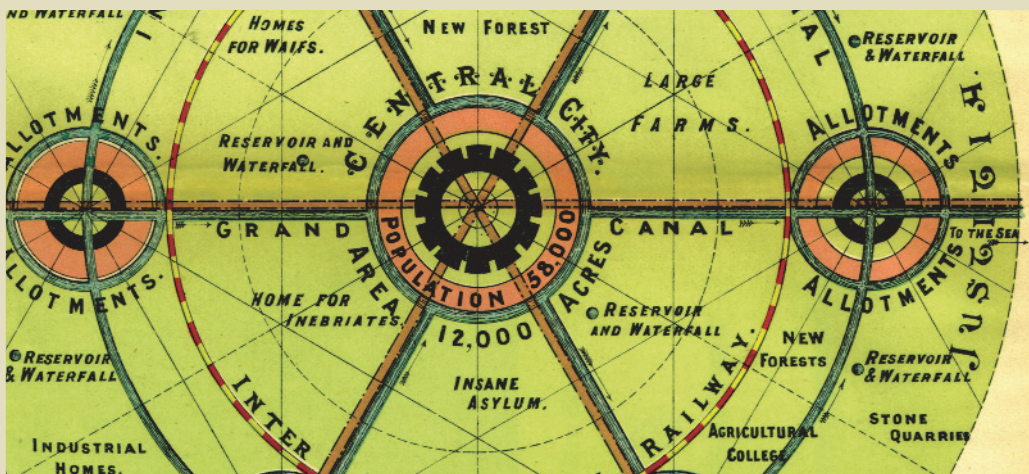
# 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Food and Garden Cities

The original Garden Cities are well known for being leafy and green, and for being designed to provide homes with gardens, access to open spaces, and space to grow food. But the creator of the Garden City idea, Ebenezer Howard, had ambitions for Garden Cities as places where local food systems went far beyond the provision of a few allotments. Influenced by utopian proposals for more conscious relationships with food – from kitchens to whole settlements – Howard developed a highly practical and extremely integrated food vision for the Garden City and its surrounding areas (see Box. 1).

#### Box 1 Howard's vision for food in Garden Cities



Ebenezer Howard saw each Garden City (and the wider constellation of Garden City settlements he envisioned as the 'Social City') as able to deal very positively with food – spatially, socially and economically. In his book *To-Morrow – A Peaceful Path to Real Reform* (1898), Howard explained the crucial role of positively linking food producers, distributors, retailers, and consumers. He proposed an agricultural belt and an integrated landscape of farms, dairies, orchards, forests, allotments, and smallholdings on the urban edges, as well as vegetable growing in the town's abundant private gardens.

The town itself provided a ready market for fresh, wholesome, locally produced food, and food waste would go back to enrich the soil in the productive, integrated landscape of the multi-functional agricultural belt. Land not yet in use for building could be improved by fruit tree planting and dairy farming. Rents from farms would help fund community services through the Garden City's unique land value capture model. Food would be moved by electric rail and canal.<sup>a</sup>

a For a detailed analysis of Ebenezer Howard's proposals in relation to food in Garden Cities, see S Parham: *Food and Garden Cities in Principle and Practice*. International Garden Cities Institute, Jul. 2016. <https://www.gardencitiesinstitute.com/think-piece/food-and-garden-cities-in-principle-and-practice>

## Box 2 Incredible Edible Network



The Incredible Edible Network aims to ‘create kind, confident and connected communities through the power of food’.<sup>a</sup> It evolved from a grassroots community initiative which transformed the town of Todmorden by growing fruit, herbs and vegetables around the town for everyone to share.<sup>b</sup> The Network runs a wide range of events that help strengthen local communities. This is done without any paid staff, buildings or funding from statutory organisations; income is largely from voluntary donations and fees for talks and tours. The initiative has spawned an international movement of guerrilla food-growing.

- a See the Incredible Edible Network website, at <https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk>
- b See the Incredible Edible Todmorden website, at <https://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk>

Today, the Garden City approach to local food is more relevant than ever. It can help to address urban issues at a range of scales – from the individual and community level, which provides people with the opportunity to eat fresh fruit and vegetables and enjoy gardening as a hobby or social activity, to a wider scale, at which food miles are reduced and places are made more self-sufficient, helping to tackle global challenges such as climate change and food security. There are many examples of community food-growing initiatives used to regenerate and ‘green’ existing places – from skip gardening in London’s King’s Cross<sup>1</sup> to creating a whole new economy for the city of Detroit.<sup>2</sup> The ‘Incredible Edible’ movement, which inspired the name of this guide, has demonstrated how community-led activities can bring people together and dramatically change the way people interact with their neighbourhood (see Box 2). Learning from these examples, those delivering new communities can take advantage of

1 ‘The Global Generation Skip Garden’. Webpage. King’s Cross Central Limited Partnership. <https://www.kingscross.co.uk/skip-garden>

2 *Economic Analysis of Detroit’s Food System*. Detroit Food & Fitness Collaborative, 2014. [https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/gleaners/legacy\\_url/226/DETROIT\\_book\\_r6\\_8\\_29\\_14\\_lowres.pdf\\_docID\\_9962?1443223248](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/gleaners/legacy_url/226/DETROIT_book_r6_8_29_14_lowres.pdf_docID_9962?1443223248)

the specific opportunities presented by large-scale development to embed sustainable local food systems from the outset as an essential part of the creation of resilient places.

## 1.2 What do we mean by edible Garden Cities?

The idea of a sustainable local food system for a new community incorporates everything from encouraging healthy eating and community food-growing, to thinking about the commercial opportunities for growing, processing and distributing food within and beyond the new community. This relates to a continuum of scales, from the wider considerations of food supply and the relationship between agriculture on the peri-urban and rural edges of a new community, to urban farms, new forests, farmers' markets, and food co-operatives, and right down to green roofs on individual buildings and the smallest of window-boxes. It involves ensuring that the design of housing meets basic human needs, including the space to store produce, cook and eat together with family and friends.<sup>3</sup>

At all scales these considerations and opportunities they provide have implications for the way that a place is planned for, designed, delivered and managed in the long term. This Practical Guide provides a flavour of these considerations and opportunities and highlights further, more detailed information and case studies of best practice. It focuses primarily on:

- how the planning process can help to bring about sustainable local food systems in new communities;
- the broad range of opportunities for action offered throughout the food cycle – from food production through to consumption and beyond; and
- how governance and long-term stewardship approaches can help to finance and manage sustainable food systems.

While this Guide is focused on opportunities in new communities, the majority of its content is equally applicable to the retrofitting and renewal of existing places.

## 1.3 What are the benefits of edible Garden Cities?

The UK is far from self-sufficient in food, not least in a context of climate change and its impacts on global food prices and food security.<sup>4</sup> Around 95% of fruit and 50% of vegetables consumed in the UK are imported,<sup>5</sup> and, with 30% of all food consumed in the UK coming from the European Union,<sup>6</sup> the need to re-evaluate the relationship between food and planning is more important than ever.

Building new places which embed sustainable local food systems provides a wide range of benefits, including carbon dioxide emissions reduction and climate change adaptation, gains

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3 *The Way We Live Now: What People Need and Expect from their Homes*. Ipsos MORI, for the Royal Institute of British Architects, May 2012. <https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/way-we-live-now>

4 V Masson-Delmotte et al.: *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty. Summary for Policymakers*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Oct. 2018. [http://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15\\_spm\\_final.pdf](http://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf)

5 J Manning: 'Food and the city reviewed'. *Urban Design*, 2016, Autumn, Issue 140, 39. [http://www.udg.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/UD140\\_magazine.pdf](http://www.udg.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/UD140_magazine.pdf)

6 *Food Statistics in Your Pocket 2017 – Global and UK Supply*. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Oct 2017 (updated Oct. 2018). <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/food-statistics-pocketbook-2017>





in green infrastructure, increased community health and wellbeing, benefits to the economy, and support for successful regeneration<sup>7</sup> – as summarised below.

## Health and wellbeing

- **Increased physical activity:** Regular involvement in gardening, food production or community food-growing projects can have physical benefits through increases in overall levels of physical activity and fitness.<sup>8</sup>
- **Support for healthy consumption and lifestyles:** Participating in food-growing can not only increase the consumption of fruit and vegetables, but can also improve people's attitudes towards healthy eating and their understanding of how food is grown. Eating increased amounts of fresh produce, and being outdoors contributes to healthy-weight management, reducing the risk of obesity and increasing life expectancy.<sup>9</sup>
- **Improved mental health and wellbeing:** Direct contact with the natural environment, being outdoors and the social interaction of being involved in community projects can all have direct positive impacts on mental health, including improvements to mood and self-esteem, reductions in stress and anxiety, and help with depression.<sup>10</sup>
- **Greater nutritional value:** Locally grown foods that are allowed to ripen naturally retain more nutrients and are thus more nutritious than produce that is transported for longer distances and is often picked before it is ripe to ensure that it survives the journey. Furthermore, food eaten at the peak of freshness is known to taste better.<sup>11</sup>

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7 *Planning Sustainable Cities for Community Food Growing*. Sustain, Apr. 2014.

[https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning\\_sustainable\\_cities/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning_sustainable_cities/)

8 CJ Wood, J Pretty and M Griffin: 'A case-control study of the health and well-being benefits of allotment gardening'. *Journal of Public Health*, 2015, Vol. 38 (3), e336-344. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdv146>

9 U Schmutz, M Lennartsson, S Williams, M Devereaux and G Davies: *The Benefits of Gardening and Food Growing for Health and Wellbeing*. Garden Organic and Sustain, Apr. 2014.

[https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/the\\_benefits\\_of\\_gardening\\_and\\_food\\_growing/#](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/the_benefits_of_gardening_and_food_growing/#)

10 R Bragg and G Atkins: *A Review of Nature-Based Interventions for Mental Health Care*. Commissioned Report NECR204. Natural England, Feb. 2016.

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6567580331409408>

11 'Why buy local food? It's healthier for you and better for the environment'. Webpage. Food Revolution Network, Dec. 2017. <https://foodrevolution.org/blog/why-buy-local-food/>

### Box 3 Agroforestry



Silvo-pastoral system



Silvo-arable system

Photos: Steve Newman

Initiatives to 'farm with trees' have demonstrated improvements in productivity and have produced multiple benefits. Considerable support for developing agroforestry systems is now available from the Soil Association and The Woodland Trust. Further information on UK experience is available from the Farm Woodland Forum, at <https://www.agroforestry.ac.uk/>

### Inclusive communities

- **Improved interaction and social cohesion:** Being involved in community food-growing can encourage social interaction and community cohesion by bringing diverse groups of people together around a common interest.<sup>12</sup> As one of the founders the Incredible Edible movement, Pam Warhurst, has said, 'If you eat, you're in.'
- **Reduced food poverty:** Almost 8.4 million people in the UK struggle to afford to eat properly;<sup>13</sup> space and opportunities to grow food makes access to food more affordable for everyone.

### Environmental restoration and sustainability

- **Reductions in food miles and carbon footprint:** Growing and consuming food locally can reduce food miles and carbon footprint, leading to improved air quality and more sustainable consumption of resources (an estimated 326 million tonnes of food products were transported by road in 2016<sup>14</sup>). This helps in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and improves biodiversity.
- **Multi-functional green infrastructure:** Food-growing land and allotments can provide accessible open spaces for the whole community as part of a multi-functional network of green infrastructure.<sup>15</sup>

12 For example, see 'Community garden examples'. Webpage. National Forest Gardening Scheme. <http://nationalforestgardening.org/benefits-of-forest-gardens/building-community/community-gardens/>; and *Growing Success: The Impact of Capital Growth on Community Food Growing in London*. Capital Growth Network. Sustain, Jan. 2013. [https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/growing\\_success/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/growing_success/)

13 'Voices of the hungry'. Webpages. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/en/#.XDx57vn7SUI>

14 *Transport Statistics Great Britain 2017*. Department for Transport, Nov. 2017. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/664323/tsgb-2017-print-ready-version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664323/tsgb-2017-print-ready-version.pdf)

15 See *Guide 7: Planning for Green and Prosperous Places*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Jan. 2018; and *Guide 8: Creating Health-Promoting Environments*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Dec. 2017. Both available at <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/guidance-for-delivering-new-garden-cities>



Alison Crompton

'Community feast' preparation at the Bromley by Bow Centre – a community hub in East London

- **Improved climate resilience, soil quality and ecosystems services:** Increases in vegetation and greenery and practices such as agroforestry (see Box 3) can help to reduce the urban heat island effect and encourage sustainable drainage through more permeable surfaces.<sup>16</sup> This can then lead to improved soil quality and the provision of ecosystem services.<sup>17</sup>
- **Environmental restoration:** The Garden City financial model of capturing and sharing the land value created through the development process can generate funds to restore soil fertility, biodiversity and rural life. A recent study has suggested that the rental yield from 30 acres of carbon-negative development could provide enough funds to restore communities and nature over an area of 1,000 acres.<sup>18</sup>

### Economic development, skills and investment

- **Learning and education:** Getting involved in local growing schemes provides opportunities for learning and education based around food – growing, managing, cooking and eating – including understanding (and tasting) the benefits of eating seasonally and healthily.<sup>19</sup>

16 A Gordon, SM Newman and B Coleman (Eds): *Temperate Agroforestry Systems*. Second Edition. CABI, 2018, pp.1-7

17 *At Home with Nature: Encouraging Biodiversity in New Housing Developments*. London Assembly Housing Committee, Jan. 2017. [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/at\\_home\\_with\\_nature\\_-\\_encouraging\\_biodiversity\\_in\\_new\\_housing\\_developments.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/at_home_with_nature_-_encouraging_biodiversity_in_new_housing_developments.pdf)

18 S Newman: 'Rural new settlements in 2018 – what might Ebenezer Howard say?'. *Town & Country Planning*, 2018, Vol. 87, Aug, 301-05

19 The Community Health Champions programme at the Bromley by Bow Centre in East London is a useful example – see <https://www.bbbc.org.uk/services/become-a-health-champion/>



The People's Supermarket in London – a community interest company offering good, cheap, fairly produced food

- **A green economy:** Community food-growing can encourage the development of life-long and transferable skills<sup>20</sup> as part of a green economy and ecosystems services approach.<sup>21</sup>
- **Attractive places:** The aesthetic benefits of urban environments designed with food in mind can encourage investment and increase property prices.<sup>22</sup>
- **Diverse economic benefits:** Local markets such as farmers' markets offer a range of economic benefits.
- **Increased employment opportunities:** Community-led models of food production and distribution, such as co-operatives or vegetable-box schemes, can provide local employment and industry.<sup>23</sup>
- **Less wasted money:** It is estimated that £13 billion of food was wasted in the UK between 2016 and 2017, with the average household losing £470 a year because of avoidable food waste.<sup>24</sup>

## Amenity and good design

- **Food and amenity:** Community food-growing spaces contribute to high-quality design and the provision of a good standard of amenity for existing and future residents within housing developments.<sup>25</sup>
- **Improving liveability:** Local food-growing spaces designed into residential development help to make towns and cities more liveable, particularly in higher-density developments where the availability of private gardens is limited.<sup>26</sup>

20 *Growing Success: The Impact of Capital Growth on Community Food Growing in London*. Capital Growth Network. Sustain, Jan. 2013. [https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/growing\\_success/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/growing_success/)

21 R Sonnino and C Griggs-Trevarthen: 'A resilient social economy? Insights from the community food sector in the UK'. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 2013, Vol. 25 (3-4), 272-92. <https://rsa.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08985626.2012.710268#.XFLxYfn7SUm>

22 *The Value of Urban Design*. Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions. Thomas Telford, 2001. [https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/the-value-of-urban-design\\_0.pdf](https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/the-value-of-urban-design_0.pdf)

23 J Kirwan, B Ilbury, D Maye and J Carey: 'Grassroots social innovations and food localisation: An investigation of the Local Food programme in England'. *Global Environmental Change*, 2013, Vol. 23 (5), 830-37. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959378012001446>

24 *Food Waste in England*. HC 429. Eighth Report of Session 2016-17. Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. House of Commons, Apr. 2017. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/429/429.pdf>

25 A Viljoen, K Bohn and J Howe: *Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes: Designing Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities*. Architectural Press, 2005

26 *Planning Sustainable Cities for Community Food Growing*. Sustain, Apr. 2014. [https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning\\_sustainable\\_cities/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning_sustainable_cities/)

# 2 Policy context

## 2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>27</sup> is the primary policy document informing local planning policies and decisions in England.

The NPPF recognises that a broad range of planning processes influence sustainable development, including those relating to local food systems – such as the role of green infrastructure in supporting the needs of communities now and in the future, prudent resource management, and effective use of land. The NPPF also includes policies setting out a direct requirement for the consideration of local food systems in planning policies and decision-making:

- Chapter 8, 'Promoting healthy and safe communities', includes a requirement that 'planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which ... [provide] safe and accessible green infrastructure ... [and] access to healthier food [and] allotments ...'.
- Chapter 11, 'Making effective use of land', states that 'planning policies and decisions should recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production'.
- Chapter 15, 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment', states that 'policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes ...; recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside ... – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land ...'.

### The NPPF and the Garden City Principles

The Garden City Principles set out a holistic framework for the design and delivery of new communities and include the delivery of healthy communities that provide a comprehensive and multi-functional green infrastructure network which includes opportunities to grow food.<sup>28</sup>

The NPPF makes reference to the Garden City Principles. It requires (in para. 72) strategic plan-making authorities, 'working with the support of their communities, and with other authorities if appropriate,' to identify locations for larger-scale development 'where this can help to meet identified needs in a sustainable way'. In doing so, the NPPF requires that they should 'set clear expectations for the quality of the development and how this can be maintained (such as by following Garden City principles)' and that they should 'consider whether it is appropriate to establish Green Belt around or adjoining new developments of significant size'.

27 *National Planning Policy Framework*. CP 49. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Feb. 2019. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/740441/National\\_Planning\\_Policy\\_Framework\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf)

28 The TCPA's Garden City Principles are set out at <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/garden-city-principles>

## 2.2 Planning Practice Guidance

Planning Practice Guidance on the natural environment<sup>29</sup> affirms the importance of green infrastructure, including for food and energy production, and states that community food-growing and gardening can improve the wellbeing of a neighbourhood, bringing mental and physical health benefits. Using strategic policies and green infrastructure frameworks with an evidence base can help protect and enhance green infrastructure and highlight any gaps in provision. The guidance states (in para. 007) that a ‘green infrastructure strategy can inform other plan policies, infrastructure delivery requirements and Community Infrastructure Levy schedules’.

## 2.3 25 Year Environment Plan

The government’s 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>30</sup> has been highly influential in raising the profile of the importance of natural capital, and of sustainable and efficient uses of the land. The document sets the goal of using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently, including a move towards more sustainable food systems, relevant to food-growing. In the first chapter, ‘Using and managing land sustainably’, the government states that ‘one of the first challenges we face is how to optimise sustainable food production. We will seek to support truly sustainable productivity growth.’

## 2.4 Allotments Act 1950

Since 1945, allotments have increasingly been gardens for urban dwellers. The Allotments Act 1950<sup>31</sup> restated the requirement that local authorities should have a duty to provide garden allotments but left out farm allotments for the rural poor, which are therefore no longer legally protected in this way. Despite extensive legal protection for allotments and a legal requirements that they be provided, there is a considerable allotment shortage. A report issued in 2010 estimated a waiting list as long as 40 years in some areas.<sup>32</sup> The Allotments Act requires local authorities to recognise the need for allotments in any town planning development.

## 2.5 Environment Bill 2018

The draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill 2018 sets out how the government plans to maintain environmental standards following the UK’s departure from the European Union, and builds on the vision of the 25 Year Environment Plan. The July 2019 update on the Bill<sup>33</sup> covers, among other things, initiatives specifically designed to address food waste.

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29 ‘Natural environment’. *Planning Practice Guidance*. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, updated Jul. 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>

30 *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*. HM Government, Jan. 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

31 Allotments Act 1950. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/14/31>

32 R Jones: ‘Allotment demand leads to 40-year waiting lists’. *The Guardian*, 2 Jun 2009. <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2009/jun/02/allotments-shortage-waiting-lists>

33 *Environment Bill Summer Policy Statement: July 2019*. Policy Paper. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Jul. 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-environment-principles-and-governance-bill-2018/environment-bill-summer-policy-statement-july-2019>



Food-growing in the Derwenthorpe development in York

## 2.6 National Food Strategy

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is undertaking an independent review to consider the food chain ‘from field to fork’. The findings of this review will be used to develop a National Food Strategy for England.<sup>34</sup> The review is being led by businessman and cookery writer Henry Dimbleby, supported by an advisory group and Defra officials. A call for evidence will be launched in summer 2019, and the review will publish its findings in summer 2020.

## 2.7 Healthy New Towns programme

In 2016 NHS England established ‘Healthy New Towns’, a three-year programme looking at how health and wellbeing can be planned and designed into new places, and bringing together partners in housebuilding, local government, healthcare and local communities to demonstrate how to create places that offer people improved choices and chances for a healthier life. ‘Inspiring and enabling healthy eating’ is one of ten ‘Healthy New Towns principles’ put forward under the programme.<sup>35</sup>

34 *Developing a National Food Strategy: Independent Review 2019 – Terms of Reference*. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Jun. 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/developing-a-national-food-strategy-independent-review-2019>

35 See *Putting Health into Place*. NHS England, Sept. 2019. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/>

# 3 Principles for success

Local authorities are required by national policy to consider opportunities for local food-growing. But planning at scale for new communities provides specific and strategic opportunities for ambitious councils to embed sustainable local food systems from the outset – from the allocation of land for food-growing, to putting in place financial mechanisms to pay for initiatives in perpetuity.

An approach to design and delivery that includes local food systems can enable healthier lifestyles and establish governance and stewardship arrangements that can give people a stake in their community in the long term. This Section explores how to maximise these opportunities throughout the planning, design, delivery and long-term management of a new community.

## 3.1 Planning for sustainable food systems

Planning for the effective delivery of local food systems in new communities is directly linked to design and masterplanning, the effective delivery of multi-functional green infrastructure, planning for healthy-weight environments, and long-term stewardship. The TCPA's Practical Guides on these subjects should be read alongside this Guide.<sup>36</sup>

### Embedding local food system requirements in Local Plan policy

The NPPF and other national policy (see Section 2) sets out the overarching framework for planning for local food-growing, but each local planning authority can ensure that its Local Plan and other policies provide more detail about how this will be achieved at a local level, including locally set standards. The vision and standards for the green infrastructure – including local food-growing – expected in new communities should be discussed in pre-application meetings with developers as early in the process as possible. At a strategic scale, existing Green Belt should be reviewed to consider how it can be managed for food production and how this might relate to food supply for new communities.

Planning authorities should clearly set out what they expect in terms of the quantity and quality of food-growing opportunities in new developments so that the cost of providing it can be factored into the price that the developer pays for the land. Sustain's guide, *Planning Sustainable Cities for Community Food Growing*, provides a range of useful examples of how to embed opportunities for community food-growing in Local Plan policy.<sup>37</sup>

At the new settlement of Northstowe, South Cambridgeshire District Council has developed a Healthy Living and Youth & Play Strategy which includes proposed requirements that

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36 See *Guide 3: Design and Masterplanning*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Dec. 2017; *Guide 7: Planning for Green and Prosperous Places*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Jan. 2018; *Guide 8: Creating Health-Promoting Environments*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Dec. 2017; and *Guide 9: Long-Term Stewardship*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Dec. 2017. All available at <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/guidance-for-delivering-new-garden-cities>

37 *Planning Sustainable Cities for Community Food Growing*. Sustain, Apr. 2014. [https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning\\_sustainable\\_cities/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning_sustainable_cities/)





developers must include to ensure that residents have access to healthy food options and productive landscapes (see the case study in Section 4).

When planning for a local food system as part of a green infrastructure network, the starting point should always be the existing provision across the site and beyond. The location and design of new development should be based on an understanding of what is already there – such an approach can provide an opportunity to strengthen networks of green infrastructure or improve the quality of individual elements.

### **Considering financial and stewardship requirements from the outset**

During the planning process the local authority and the developers should consider how local food systems will be funded and managed in perpetuity as part of a wider network of green infrastructure. Local authorities are increasingly reluctant to take on the responsibility for managing and maintaining new parks, street trees, sustainable drainage systems and other elements of green infrastructure, and alternative options for stewardship should be considered as early as possible. Further information on approaches to long-term management and funding are set out in the TCPA's Practical Guide on long-term stewardship.<sup>38</sup>

#### ***Principles for success:***

- If undertaking a review, consider how existing Green Belt can be managed for food production and how this might relate to food supply for new communities.
- Include requirements for community food-growing and considerations of wider sustainable food systems in strategic and detailed Local Plan policy, including for site-specific briefs.

38 *Guide 9: Long-Term Stewardship*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Dec. 2017. <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/guidance-for-delivering-new-garden-cities>

- Gather locally specific evidence on community food-growing opportunities to inform detailed site policies and design.
- Make provision for the finance of local food initiatives in Community Infrastructure levy and Section 106 agreements.

## 3.2 Design and delivery

Designing for local food systems in new communities is important at all scales; from the allocation of land for dedicated uses such as allotments or market-places, to the design of individual buildings or groups of buildings to provide access to food-growing opportunities or commercial activity.

### Local food systems as part of a landscape-led approach

Local food systems should form an integral part of a landscape-led masterplan or strategic framework, in which at least 50% of a new Garden City's total area should be allocated to green infrastructure (of which at least half should be public), consisting of a network of multi-functional, well managed, high-quality open spaces linked to the wider countryside. This figure is ambitious but includes architectural green infrastructure elements such as green roofs and green walls. Where it is not possible or desirable to provide a private garden with each home, homes should have easy access to shared or community gardens.

A crucial aspect of Ebenezer Howard's Garden City model was the provision of an integrated landscape belt with multi-functional benefits, ranging from the prevention of sprawl and the conservation and improvement of visual amenity to the production of renewable energy and what we might today call ecosystem services. Fundamentally, the surrounding belt of land would provide a local source of food and resources for the emerging market of the new Garden City. For new communities today, this 'integrated landscape belt' may take a number of different forms. But whatever the form that it takes in practice, it must be properly managed, with urban and rural land management decision-making systems linked to ensure that the belt also provides for access to recreation, energy generation, agricultural production, and habitat creation.



Photos: Bright Agrotech/Creative Commons 4.0

Vertical green and food-growing space can make a significant contribution



### **Viable local food opportunities as part of a holistic approach**

The design and location of opportunities for local food-growing, processing, distribution and consumption in a development should be considered as part of a holistic approach to masterplanning which considers movement, density, commercial activity, and land uses. Allotments too far from housing, or spaces for farmers' markets which are not accessible on foot or by public transport, are likely to become unused and unviable.

### **Flexibility in design**

Flexibility in the design and layout of buildings and spaces is also important. Open spaces should be designed into new residential development to enable a range of uses that can be easily adapted to growing food. It can also be more complicated and expensive to retrofit food-growing spaces into developments once residents have moved in.

Allocating spaces for unspecified community uses can also provide opportunities for a range of community-led initiatives – from cultural activities to local food-growing. It is necessary to ensure that while such spaces are left for unspecified uses they are properly managed so the community have a sense of ownership over them.

'Meanwhile uses' – i.e. the temporary use of land awaiting development – related to local food can help to build a sense of place and community early in the development process.

### ***Principles for success:***

#### ***Design***

- Integrate local food systems as part of a landscape-led approach to design and masterplanning.
- Give consideration to local food opportunities in the context of movement, density, commercial activity and land use to ensure their viability.
- Design spaces in the public realm with flexibility to incorporate local food-growing opportunities in the future.

- Ensure that each household has access to space to grow food – whether in a private garden or in shared community space.
- Ensure that the design of buildings has considered opportunities for food-growing as part of a wider network of green infrastructure, and with adequate internal space to store, produce and cook fresh food and eat meals together.

#### **Delivery**

- Give consideration to community food-growing as a ‘meanwhile use’ on development sites, provided that this is supported by longer-term provision.
- Consider spaces which can be taken over by community-led initiatives.
- Integrate community food-growing with community participation over the life of the development.

### **3.3 Management and long-term stewardship**

Designing opportunities for food-growing and food-related commercial activities into a new community is an important part of embedding local food systems, but attempts to do so can be ineffective unless the right management structures are in place to make things happen and look after the resulting community assets in the long term. Setting up one or more long-term stewardship bodies for a new community is necessary to maximise the benefits of local food systems and community assets as a whole.

Most community assets and services and most of the public realm could be managed by a stewardship body. Certain services and assets will already be run by the local authority; the role of a stewardship body that evolves through the development process is to add value for the community by managing assets and providing services which supplement those already provided by the council. The stewardship body might be a separate entity, like Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, or one run through a grassroots initiative, such as Incredible Edible, or it might be an additional service provided by the local authority itself.

Stewardship bodies can take many forms. Suitable arrangements will vary from place to place and will depend on their function, the assets that are to be managed, and the types of finance arrangements needed. There may also be more than one stewardship body managing different assets or providing different services in a new community.

Examples of stewardship bodies for food matters include local food co-operatives, charitable trusts such as the Parks Trust in Milton Keynes, and the community-led Incredible Edible Network. The full range of possible models and opportunities should be considered at the earliest stage of planning and delivery. Details of long-term stewardship models and approaches are set out in the TCPA's Practical Guide 9: *Long-Term Stewardship*.<sup>39</sup>

#### **Principles for success:**

- Include local food systems and opportunities for the long-term management of food-related initiatives within scoping work on long-term stewardship models.
- Ensure that food is considered in the economic strategy for a scheme, including opportunities for initiatives such as food co-operatives.
- Consider the link between food and waste management, such as closed-loop processes.
- Ensure that the monitoring of developments considers health outcomes, including opportunities for local food provision.

39 *Guide 9: Long-Term Stewardship*. Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guide for Creating Successful New Communities. TCPA, Dec. 2017. <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/guidance-for-delivering-new-garden-cities>



### 3.4 Finance and local economies

Opportunities for funding different aspects of local food systems are as diverse as the opportunities themselves – from grants for local businesses, to income generation through events via a community trust. As highlighted by Sustain and Shared Assets in their recent report on food-growing in parks,<sup>40</sup> food growing projects are often not money-making opportunities; but resources for their ongoing management should be considered as part of the wider network of green infrastructure. However, local food-growing can operate as a viable agro-ecological business on city fringes,<sup>41</sup> and there are some successful examples of community-supported agriculture.<sup>42</sup> Research carried out by Shared Assets has explored the ways in which community food-growing contributes to local economic resilience.<sup>43</sup> For aspects of local food systems that are linked to green infrastructure, it is vital to consider from the earliest stage:

- capital funding – to pay for creating the green infrastructure;
- revenue funding – to pay for the care of the green infrastructure in perpetuity; and
- the design of the green infrastructure – which will affect the cost of maintaining it as well as the cost of creating it.

40 *Food Growing in Parks: A Guide for Councils*. Shared Assets and Sustain, Oct. 2018. [https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/food\\_growing\\_in\\_parks/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/food_growing_in_parks/)

41 *Urban Farming Toolkit: A Guide to Growing to Sell in the City*. Capital Growth Network. Sustain, Nov. 2017. <https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/urbanfarmingtoolkit/>

42 See the Community Supported Agriculture Network UK website, at <https://communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk/>

43 'Local land economies'. Webpage. Shared Assets. <http://www.sharedassets.org.uk/innovation/local-land-economies/>

#### Box 4 Local food in the first Garden City



Recent research work on the food economy in Letchworth Garden City has generated maps of the locations of allotments, shared gardens, green waste disposal sites, open green space, woodland, and productive land, as well as food markets, supermarkets, small shops, restaurants, and pubs within the town.<sup>a</sup> The work has also identified locations of food processors, wholesalers, and food associations and institutions. The maps show that some of the promise of Howard's proposals for the delivery, management and land-value-capture-related economics of food are reflected in Letchworth, but even here, in the world's first Garden City, more can be done.

- a A Andre: 'Feeding a Garden City'. Blog entry. Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, Nov. 2018. <https://www.letchworth.com/blog/feeding-a-garden-city>

The design of the green infrastructure will, in part, determine how easy or difficult it is to maintain, and how much the maintenance will cost. The design will also determine the various functions that the green infrastructure will deliver – and this could, in part, help in securing funding for its maintenance.

A long-term stewardship body that can capture part of the uplift in development values and re-invest it in the new community can commit to doing so to maintain local food systems. It is also possible to specify the management of local food systems through planning gain mechanisms such as the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 contributions. Further detail on such approaches is set out in the TCPA's report long-term stewardship, *Built Today, Treasured Tomorrow*.<sup>44</sup>

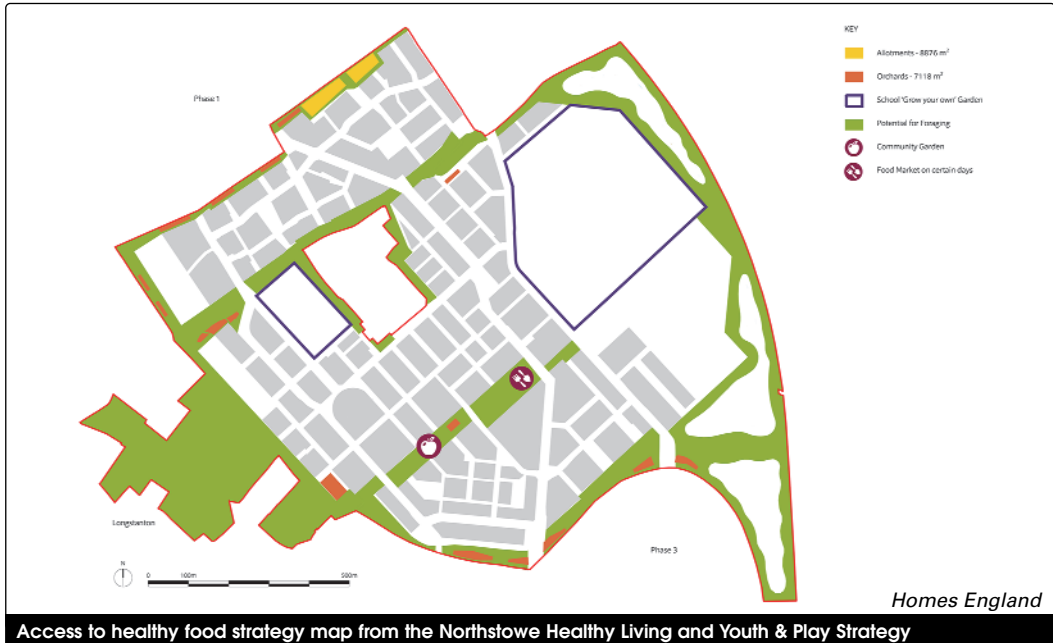
#### **Principles for success:**

- Consider how Community Infrastructure Levy contributions could go towards local food systems in new development, including new communities.
- Secure capital and revenue funding through Section 106 agreements for new communities.
- Consider how opportunities for green infrastructure funding can be used to fund local food-growing initiatives.
- Use business development funds for food-related businesses and co-operatives.
- Consider applying natural capital accounting processes to local food systems.

44 *Built Today, Treasured Tomorrow – A Good Practice Guide to Long-Term Stewardship*. TCPA, Jan. 2014. <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/built-today-treasured-tomorrow2014>

# 4 Case studies

## 4.1 Northstowe, Cambridgeshire



Situated five miles north of Cambridge, on the former RAF Oakington site and surrounding farmland, Northstowe is one of the largest of the NHS England Healthy New Towns demonstrator sites and will eventually comprise 10,000 new homes and associated facilities. The development is being delivered by Homes England, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and Cambridgeshire County Council. Tackling rising levels of obesity is a key focus.

The phase 2 development strategy for Northstowe, created by Homes England, is centred around a Healthy Living and Youth & Play Strategy, which sets out requirements that developers must meet to ensure that residents have access to healthy food options and productive landscapes. A key requirement is the provision of fruit trees in private gardens and a community orchard, in a nod to the original Garden Cities. Housebuilders must also provide adequate depth and quality of soil within private garden areas to enable residents to grow fruit and vegetables. Community growing opportunities, such as fruiting espaliers on boundary walls, foraging food trails, herb walls, commercial roof terraces and communal courtyard areas, are to be included throughout. Furthermore, additional potential measures include market-stall spaces within the town centre square and retail floor space for a locally produced food outlet. Northstowe features a strengthened focus on health and wellbeing and in doing so is introducing improved measures to enable awareness of and access to healthy food within the new community.

### Further information:

NHS England Healthy New Towns programme:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/northstowe/>

Northstowe: <https://www.northstowe.com/vision/>

## 4.2 Edible Ebbsfleet



Healthy eating is a priority for the developers of the new community at Ebbsfleet

Ebbsfleet 'Garden City' is a new community located in Kent, and will provide up to 15,000 new homes. The project is the largest of the ten NHS England Healthy New Towns demonstrator sites. Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group are developing the new community collaboratively.

A baseline quality of life study in and around Ebbsfleet revealed high levels of childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes and limited access to healthier and more affordable food options. It also indicated that the existing communities adjacent to Ebbsfleet Garden City have health indices over 30% lower than the national averages. As a result, enabling healthier eating has been a priority for the new development. Through local food-growing, residents will be encouraged to get involved in cooking, growing and eating healthily and in getting to know their neighbours.

Edible Ebbsfleet, set up to build on the success of Incredible Edible Todmorden, is a community activation initiative working with local residents to develop a series of small-scale food-growing initiatives along local streets, parks and gardens – both to transform the image of the area and to promote education on the health benefits of eating fresh fruit and vegetables. The Healthy New Towns team worked with a local voluntary sector organisation, No Walls Gardens, to kick off the initiative with modest financial support for ten small growing projects on unused land. The work inspired others to get involved, and there are now several Edible Ebbsfleet initiatives across the area – including a community garden; edible streetscapes providing free access to fruit, vegetables and herbs; a growing initiative at Ebbsfleet International Station; and school projects involving over 1,200 children. Ultimately the Edible Ebbsfleet programme aims to become self-sustaining, with developers and community activists picking up the mantle, with the 'edible' approach, from small berries to great fruit trees, becoming the norm across the new community.

### Further information:

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation – Edible Ebbsfleet:

<https://ebbsfleetdc.org.uk/healthynewtowns/edible-ebbsfleet/>

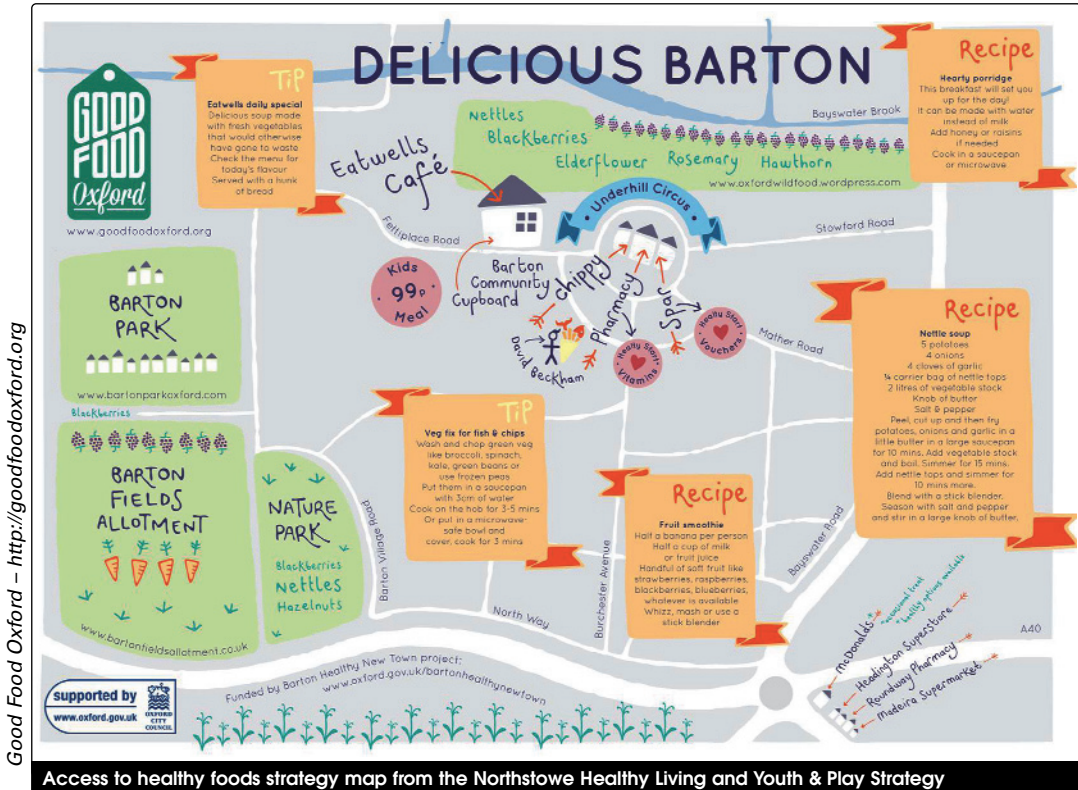
NHS England Healthy New Towns programme:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/northstowe/>

No Walls Gardens: <http://www.nowallsgardens.org>

Incredible Edible Todmorden: <https://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk>





Barton Park is a new development in the suburb of Barton on the eastern edge of Oxford. The development will deliver 885 new homes by 2023, as well as a new primary school, retail opportunities, and community facilities. The development is one of the ten NHS England Healthy New Towns demonstrator sites.

Compared with other areas of Oxford, Barton suffers from some significant health inequalities. A study commissioned by Good Food Oxford, supported by Oxford City Council, identified several pockets of food poverty in Barton. The study recommended ways to increase the accessibility of healthy eating options and to build a resilient food culture in new and existing communities in Barton. This approach is underpinned by the Healthy New Towns programme's 'One Barton' philosophy, which aims to ensure that both existing and new residents benefit from the development at Barton Park.

To address food poverty, Good Food Oxford and the Barton Community Association were funded by the Healthy New Towns programme to publish a *Where Can I Find Food in Barton?* leaflet, aimed at all residents and visitors. The leaflet includes a 'Delicious Barton' map (shown above), indicating sources of healthy food in the area, as well as tips and recipes aimed at encouraging healthier behaviours. The leaflet also includes information about events in Barton, such as a free breakfast club, an affordable lunch club, and cooking classes. The clubs served over 430 breakfasts and 180 main meals to children and young people over a recent three-month period.

An information session on food poverty was delivered to professionals working in Barton to raise awareness of issues faced by local people. To make the local food bank more readily

accessible and enticing, it is now laid out in a 'community cupboard' style, with baskets of vegetables and fruit. The national Healthy Start voucher scheme was actively promoted, with information on local food outlets that accept the vouchers given to health visitors to share with their clients.

The new development's masterplan also includes an upgrade of Barton's allotments, offering an important way to support the building of a strong community between Barton and Barton Park residents and encouraging a better understanding of residents' relationship with food. Residents will be encouraged to take up available plots and to learn about growing more affordable, healthy food while enjoying being outdoors and having the chance to socialise with their neighbours.

**Further information:**

NHS England Healthy New Towns programme – Barton:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/barton-park/>

# 5

## Sources of further information

### **TCPA publications and resources on Garden Cities, new communities and long-term stewardship**

#### ■ ***Garden City Standards for the 21st Century: Practical Guides for Creating Successful New Communities***

The TCPA has produced a suite of guidance outlining practical steps for all those interested in making 21st-century Garden Cities a reality. Guidance provides detail and case studies on a wide range of key issues, including planning, investment, land assembly, delivery, and long-term stewardship:

*Guide 1: Locating and Consenting New Garden Cities* (2017)

*Guide 2: Finance and Delivery* (2017)

*Guide 3: Design and Masterplanning* (2017)

*Guide 4: Planning for Energy and Climate Change* (2016)

*Guide 5: Homes for All* (2016)

*Guide 6: I'd Love to Live There! Planning for Culture and the Arts* (2016)

*Guide 7: Planning for Green and Prosperous Places* (2017, revised 2018)

*Guide 8: Creating Health-Promoting Environments* (2017)

*Guide 9: Long-Term Stewardship* (2017)

*Guide 10: Edible Garden Cities* (2019)

*Guide 11: People, Planning and Power* (2019)

All are available at <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/guidance-for-delivering-new-garden-cities>

#### ■ ***Creating Garden Cities and Suburbs Today: A Guide for Councils***. Mar. 2013.

<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=728ee8cf-ef8f-4c51-bc5c-8c4bbd1eab9f>

#### ■ ***The Art of Building a Garden City – Garden City Standards for the 21st Century***. Jul. 2014.

<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=15aa0250-9200-491a-9f56-b81475df64ad>

#### ■ ***New Towns and Garden Cities – Lessons for Tomorrow. Stage 2: Lessons for Delivering a New Generation of Garden Cities***. Sept. 2015.

<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=62a09e12-6a24-4de3-973f-f4062e561e0a>

#### ■ **TCPA New Communities Group**

The New Communities Group (NCG) is a group of ambitious local authorities and development corporations planning and delivering exemplary large-scale new communities. The NCG helps in developing plans, providing political support, and encouraging a sharing of knowledge and best practice through seminars, workshops, study visits, parliamentary briefings, ministerial meetings, and newsletters.

<http://www.tcpa.org.uk/new-communities-group>

## Other resources

### ■ Association for Vertical Farming

<https://vertical-farming.net>

An internationally active non-profit organisation of individuals, companies, research institutions and universities, focusing on leading and advancing the sustainable growth and development of the vertical farming movement.

### ■ Capital Growth

<https://www.capitalgrowth.org>

Supports people growing food in London – at home, in allotments, and in community groups. It is London's largest food-growing network (with over 2,000 gardens throughout the city), offering support on training and growing to sell.

### ■ Centre for Food Policy, City University of London

<https://www.city.ac.uk/arts-social-sciences/sociology/centre-for-food-policy#unit=about>

Works on how public policy affects food – what people eat, and how it is grown, processed, distributed, and consumed.

### ■ Community Land Advisory Service

<https://www.communitylandadvice.org.uk>

Impartial, collaborative service, aiming to increase community access to land across the UK and working to combat the lack of available land for community gardening and associated green space activities. Offers free training workshops for land management and community-growing groups.

### ■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

Government department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities in the UK.

### ■ Environment Agency

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

Non-departmental public body supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and responsible for the protection and enhancement of the environment in England.

### ■ Food, Farming and Countryside Commission

<https://www.thersa.org/action-and-research/rsa-projects/public-services-and-communities-folder/food-farming-and-countryside-commission>

Established in November 2017 to consider how to achieve a safe, secure, inclusive food and farming system for the UK.

### ■ Food Foundation

<https://foodfoundation.org.uk>

Independent think-tank on the growing challenges facing the UK's food system, analysing problems caused by the food system and the role of policy and practice in addressing them.

### ■ Food Matters

<https://www.foodethicscouncil.org>

Food policy and advocacy charity, encouraging and supporting change towards sustainable and fair food systems.

■ **Groundwork**

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk>

Charity helping communities through thousands of projects across the UK, working to build stronger communities by, among other things, improving parks, playgrounds, and other shared green spaces.

■ **Healthy New Towns programme**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/>

NHS England's three-year programme on how health and wellbeing can be planned and designed into new places

■ **Incredible Edible Network**

<https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk>

Support network for the Incredible Edible community, connecting nearly 100 groups across the UK.

■ **Landscape Institute**

<https://www.landscapeinstitute.org>

Chartered body for the landscape profession and an educational charity. Aims, through work of its own and of its members, to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment for the public benefit.

■ **Livingroofs.org**

<https://livingroofs.org/>

The UK's leading independent green roof website, set up to promote green roofs and living walls in urban areas.

■ **London Food Board**

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/food/london-food-board>

Board advising the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority on the development and delivery of a new London Food Strategy published in December 2018 (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/food/london-food-strategy-0>), food issues across the capital, and how to develop a better food system for Londoners.

■ **National Forest Gardening Scheme**

<http://nationalforestgardening.org>

Collective seeking to promote and share experience of forest gardening.

■ **National Trust**

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

Independent charity and membership organisation for environmental, and heritage, conservation, promoting access to natural heritage.

■ **Natural England**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

Non-departmental public body in charge of conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

■ **Orchard Project**

<https://www.theorchardproject.org.uk>

Charity dedicated to creating skilled communities to plant, care for and harvest fruit trees and restore community orchards, connecting urban communities and increasing access to fruit.

■ **Permaculture Association**

<https://www.permaculture.org.uk>

Member organisation helping the permaculture network to design thriving communities by applying permaculture ethics and principles.

■ **RUAF Foundation**

<https://www.ruaf.org>

Leading centre of expertise and global partnership on sustainable urban agriculture and food systems.

■ **Shared Assets**

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

Non-profit company developing and promoting new models of common-good land use, helping clients across the public, private and community sectors to develop new ways of managing land that are financially sustainable and create livelihoods and shared public benefits.

■ **Social Farms & Gardens**

<https://www.farmgarden.org.uk>

Organisation, formed by the merger of Care Farming UK and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, that supports and represents farmers, gardeners and growers running life-changing projects in urban and rural communities.

■ **Soil Association**

<https://www.soilassociation.org>

Membership charity campaigning for healthy, sustainable food, farming and land use.

■ **Sustain**

<https://www.sustainweb.org>

Alliance of around 100 national public-interest organisations working at international, national, regional and local level, advocating food and agriculture policies and practices that enhance the health and welfare of people and animals, improve the working and living environment, enrich society and culture, and promote equity.

■ **Sustainable Food Cities**

<http://www.sustainablefoodcities.org>

Partnership run by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain, helping people and places share challenges, explore practical solutions, and develop best practice on key food issues. A cross-sector partnership of local public agencies, businesses, academics and NGOs, it works to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of places.

■ **Sustainable Food Trust**

<https://sustainablefoodtrust.org>

Aims to accelerate the transition to more sustainable food systems, working catalytically and collaboratively, and with an emphasis on communication and education, on an international scale to build partnerships with individuals and organisations in leadership positions to unlock the barriers to change.

■ **The Land Trust**

<https://thelandtrust.org.uk>

Charity overseeing the long-term sustainable management of open spaces for community benefit.

### ■ **Trees for Cities**

<https://www.treesforcities.org>

Charity working at a national and international scale to green cities, using volunteers to cultivate lasting change in neighbourhoods, revitalise forgotten spaces, create healthier environments, and grow food with children. It has planted over 800,000 trees and delivered projects in more than 20 UK cities.

### ■ **Urban Land Institute**

<https://www.landscapeinstitute.org>

Non-profit research and education organisation focusing on the responsible use of land and on creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.

### ■ **V-Farm**

<http://www.v-farm.co.uk>

Urban agriculture company offering indoor 'vertical farming' products.

### ■ **Wholesome Food Association**

<http://www.wholesome-food.org>

Campaigning non-profit organisation, run by volunteers and promoting smaller-scale, local sustainable food production.

### ■ **Woodland Trust**

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

Charitable organisation with a remit to protect and campaign on behalf of the UK's woods, plant trees, and restore ancient woodland for the benefit of wildlife and people. Offers advice on funding agroforestry and involving the community.

## **Useful publications**

### ■ ***Community Orchards: How To Guide***

Department for Communities and Local Government, Aug. 2011

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/11466/1973262.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11466/1973262.pdf)

Guide for community groups on conserving or creating community orchards.

### ■ ***Cultivating the Capital: Food Growing and the Planning System in London***

London Assembly Planning and Housing Committee, Jan. 2010

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla\\_migrate\\_files\\_destination/archives/archive-assembly-reports-plansd-growing-food.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_migrate_files_destination/archives/archive-assembly-reports-plansd-growing-food.pdf)

Highlights the benefits that supporting commercial and social enterprise food-growing can bring in and around London.

### ■ ***Field Guide for the Future***

Food, Farming & Countryside Commission, Jul. 2019

<https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/field-guide-future>

Practical guide based on the Commission's inquiries, with case studies of good practice and stories of change hinting at a better future.

### ■ ***Food Growing in Parks: A Guide for Councils***

Shared Assets and Sustain, Oct. 2018

[https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/food\\_growing\\_in\\_parks/#](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/food_growing_in_parks/#)

Guide on how councils can take forward food-growing in parks, using public assets to address local priorities.

■ ***Food-Sensitive Planning and Urban Design: A Conceptual Framework for Achieving a Sustainable and Healthy Food System***

David Lock Associates, University of Melbourne, and National Heart Foundation of Australia, Mar. 2011

[https://www.healthyplaces.org.au/userfiles/file/Design%20elements/foodsensitive\\_planning.pdf](https://www.healthyplaces.org.au/userfiles/file/Design%20elements/foodsensitive_planning.pdf)

Lays out ideas for anyone working to achieve sustainable and healthy food systems.

■ ***Good Food for London: How London Boroughs Can Help Secure a Healthy and Sustainable Food Future***

Sustain, Oct. 2018

[https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/good\\_food\\_for\\_london\\_2018/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/good_food_for_london_2018/)

Produced by Sustain's London Food Link and providing an annual report, league table and good food maps highlighting the ways that London boroughs are creating a better food future for residents.

■ ***Green Infrastructure: A Catalyst for the Well-being of Future Generations in Wales***

Wildlife Trusts Wales, 2016

[http://www.wtwales.org/sites/default/files/green\\_infrastructure.pdf](http://www.wtwales.org/sites/default/files/green_infrastructure.pdf)

Report on the multi-functionality of green infrastructure and connections with a healthier, more prosperous Wales.

■ ***Planning Sustainable Cities for Community Food Growing***

Sustain, Apr. 2014

[https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning\\_sustainable\\_cities/](https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning_sustainable_cities/)

Guide with examples of UK planning policies that support community food-growing, aimed at planning authorities seeking to create healthier communities through growing food.

■ ***Putting Health into Place***

NHS England, Sept. 2019

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/>

Four publications sharing learning from the Healthy New Towns Programme.

■ ***Space for Food Growing: A Guide***

Department for Communities and Local Government, Aug. 2012

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/space-for-food-growing-a-guide>

Guide for community groups and individuals interested in growing their own food, with case studies.

■ ***Urban Farming Toolkit: A Guide to Growing to Sell in the City***

Capital Growth Network. Sustain, Nov. 2017

<https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/urbanfarmingtoolkit/#>

Practical guide to help prospective growers establish and run a successful growing site that generates income.