

Incredible Edible Calderdale



Community Growing: A Simple Guide

Making growing food visible in communities

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Incredible Edible Community Growing

1. Be part of the 'grow your own' community

We want to help Calderdale residents to grow their own food, this document will explain how.

This document will take you through starting a community growing project, but there are also other growing options available to you:

1. Allotments – The Council have allotments available to let to individuals who will produce vegetables and fruit crops for consumption or use by the tenant and his/ her family. For more information contact Pam Smithies on 01422 284401 or Pam.Smithies@calderdale.gov.uk
2. Gardens – Is there a piece of Council-owned land adjoining your property that you would like to rent to create/ extend a garden area? Contact Lee Wigley in our Corporate Assets and Facilities Management team with the full address and postcode of the land, along with a plan showing the extent of the land on 01422 392129 or Lee.Wigley@calderdale.gov.uk

2. How Calderdale Council can help

Identify land and if it's owned by CMBC apply to grow food on it... it's as simple as that!

The requirements for obtaining a growing license are detailed later on in the 'What we need from you' section.

3. Land identification

Is there a piece of land that looks unused and unloved? Do you think that you could make better use of it by starting a community growing project? Check if that land is owned by the Council by checking the Mapping System on the Council's website (http://map.calderdale.gov.uk/connect/?mapcfg=Community_Growing). All Calderdale Council libraries have internet access and staff will be able to assist you, should you need it.

The Council are currently working on a new mapping system which will show all land available for community growing in Calderdale. In the first instance, work will be done to show availability in Todmorden and then progress across the borough. However, you can still start a community growing project before this work is complete – just contact your local Neighbourhood Co-ordinator (contacts on page 5).

4. What we need from you

We want to encourage communities to grow food together and particularly welcome applications from groups of community members. However, we understand that this isn't always possible and you can apply as a single household.

We need you to talk to the people who live and/ or work adjacent to the land you want to use, explaining your ideas and let us know their response. This is your consultation.

When applying for a license to use Council land for community growing we will need the following;

1. Information on the consultation carried out with local people, both those interested in taking part and those who are not.
2. A plan of what you want to do. This can be a hand drawn plan if necessary showing what you would like to grow where on the site, where your paths might be (if applicable) and any other changes you might wish to make to the site.
3. Third party liability insurance*; Through the period of the agreement, the licence holder/ holders will maintain third party liability insurance with a minimum limit of indemnity £5,000,000 for any one incident and without limit on the number of claims in any one year.

*Options for insurance:

- If you are part of a constituted community group you may already have the relevant third party liability Insurance cover;
- If you currently have a home contents insurance policy you may be covered through the Personal Legal Liability insurance section of your policy, which would cover your actions as an individual;
- If you are a social housing tenant, your landlord may offer a Tenants Home Contents Scheme which could include Personal Legal Liability insurance; covering your actions as an individual.

Scheme participants are responsible for ensuring they meet the insurance requirements of the licence and we would always recommend that you contact your insurance provider and advise them of your project to ensure you would be covered by your current policy.

For organisations that offer insurance for this sort of activity please look at the links under the 'Useful Information' section on the following page.

5. Plain English license

The Community Growing licence is a document that permits you to grow food on council land with our permission. As it is a legal document the language can be a little intimidating so here is a plain English summary of the main points of the licence.

The licence is a rolling 12 month licence which means that if the licence holder is still growing and the council is happy with this 12 months after the licence is first signed it will automatically renew.

There is a 3 month notice period for giving up the licence, this means that you as licence holder would need to give the Council 3 months notice in writing of terminating your licence; it also means that the council would have to give you 3 months notice in writing if they need to take back use of the land.

As a licence holder you will promise to:-

- Keep the land tidy and in good order.
- Grow only food on the land; you can make a special application to keep chickens or rabbits if you want to, although permission for this is not guaranteed.
- You will ask for permission before planting any food growing trees on the land and the council promises to allow this unless there is a really good reason not to.
- You can ask for permission to put up a shed or poly tunnel but no other sort of structure would be allowed.
- You won't do any permanent damage to the land or do anything illegal on it.
- You will ensure that access for neighbouring land or property users or for relevant utility companies is still possible as it was before you took out the licence.
- To tell the council if you move house and what your new correspondence address would be.
- To hold public/ third party liability insurance to a value of £5,000,000 (please see insurance section of this guidance)
- If you want to sell produce that you have grown you will need to ask permission of the council and have the necessary insurances in place to do so.

6. Useful information and contacts

There is wide ranging information, advice and funding opportunities available to individuals, groups and organisations to develop food growing in communities.

Below are some web addresses which can provide further information and advice as well as contact details for the Neighbourhood Co-ordinators at Calderdale Council.

Good Luck!

Useful web addresses:

<http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/generaladvice/food.html>

www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk

www.todgrow.forumandco.com ****No longer in use so you cannot add new posts, but you can still access old information, including pictures, questions etc****

www.vegetableexpert.co.uk

www.allotment.org.uk

www.chat.allotment.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/advice/pests_and_diseases

www.growingschools.org.uk/News/news13.aspx

www.cffc.co.uk

www.greenbusinessnetwork.org

Insurance:

www.nsalg.org.uk

<http://www.tcv.org.uk/community>

www.Lycetts.co.uk

<http://tennysoninsurance.co.uk/instant-online-cover/>

Contacts

The guidance has been put together by Calderdale Council. For further information please contact your local Neighbourhood Co-ordinator:

If you are a resident in **Halifax Central** (Sowerby Bridge, Park, Skircoat or Town Wards) please contact: Shebana Sadiq on 01422 365948 or Shebana.Sadiq@calderdale.gov.uk

If you are a resident in the **Lower Valley** (Greetland & Stainland, Elland, Hipperholme & Lightcliffe, Brighouse or Rastrick Wards) please contact:

Mags Bryson on 01422 288017 or Mags.Bryson@calderdale.gov.uk

Or

Graham Gibbons on 01422 288016 or Graham.Gibbons@calderdale.gov.uk

If you are a resident in the **Upper Valley** (Todmorden, Calder, Ryburn or Luddendenfoot Wards) please contact:

Jae Campbell on 01422 264622 or Jae.Campbell@calderdale.gov.uk

Or

Kirsten Fussing on 01706 548133 or Kirsten.Fussing@calderdale.gov.uk

If you are a resident in **Halifax North & East** (Warley, Illingworth & Mixenden, Ovenden or Northowram Ward) please contact:

Vicky McGhee on 01422 255402 or Vicky.Mcghee@calderdale.gov.uk