

## Waterbeach Community Garden

Name	
Contact	
Connection to Waterbeach	Resident
Activity	Community Garden
Participants	Myself, Husband & whoever wishes to take part

I am a relatively new resident of the Village and have found it hard to connect with others during lockdown, especially without having children or a dog. I want to share something that I love in order to give to the community but also give me an opportunity to meet my neighbours. Once the garden is built I hope to fill it with salads and herbs for anyone to pick as well as a space where people can watch the food grow and learn about where their meals come from.

I am an educator and community organiser, and I couldn't pass up the opportunity that presented itself at the end of my garden. A small patch of ground given over to nettles and hemlock, covered in plastic wrappers beneath the greenery. I see potential in this small plot as a talking point, a place to meet, engage with nature and offer healthy & tasty veggies to anyone who passes by.

Given the current economy, herbs and salads are a luxury for many. You rarely find fresh herbs and salads at food banks, and when you buy them from shops they are wrapped in plastic, which will outlive us, and you often don't use the whole bunch and so contribute to the staggering amount of food waste in this country. By having a communal plot residents can pick what they need and leave the rest on the plant for someone else.

Lockdown has affected us all in very different ways. For me the biggest thing has been the loneliness of isolation in a place I'm new to. As someone with Chronic Fatigue that affects my ability to leave the house this has been especially potent. Since starting in the garden I have already quadrupled the number of people I interact with and loneliness isn't just an issue I experience.

I hope with this project I can do a small part in lessening these burdens and bring some colour to the Rec Ground. And the council can be assured that I will take full responsibility for the plot, keeping it tidy and removing it should we leave the village without passing it on.

Hazard	Degree of Risk (F+S)xP=R	Action
Tripping hazard over the beds themselves.	(8+8)x2=32	Have painted the beds a bright colour to mitigate this risk.
Pet Droppings etc	(6+7)x4=52	I will install signage to request droppings are picked up & that all produce should be <b>carefully washed</b> before eating. Will also add in some physical cat deterrents (chimes/plants/reflectives)
Splinters / Exposed nails in construction.	(6+5)x2=22	Will recheck the beds.
Potential for picking a plant which should not be eaten.	(4+8)x3=36	Nothing will be planted in these beds which is inedible. Clear signage will be on each plant and I will be regularly weeding & maintaining the plot. Weed suppressing plastic has been laid to prevent the inedible plants from growing into the beds.