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Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board



Meeting Date	25 November 2021	Agenda Item	3.3
Report Title	Establishing a Community Supported Agriculture Initiative on the Morriston Hospital Site		
Report Author	Amanda Davies, Service Improvement Manager, Strategic Planning – Capital		
Report Sponsor	Simon Davies, Assistant Director of Planning (Capital)		
Presented by	Siân Harrop-Griffiths, Director of Strategy		
Freedom of Information	Open		
Purpose of the Report	The purpose of this paper is to consider and approve the establishment of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) a not for profit initiative on available land on the Morriston Hospital site.		
Key Issues	<p>Discussions have been held about supporting a CSA initiative, which is a partnership between principal growers and consumers in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared.</p> <p>The Health Board has land available, which would ideally lend itself to the establishment of a CSA, and would improve health and wellbeing in our communities in the broadest sense.</p>		
Specific Action Required <i>(please choose one only)</i>	Information	Discussion	Assurance
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE that 2022 is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A UK wide group has been established to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee', for which funding is available. Health Boards will be expected to participate and the CSA land could lend itself to having a tree or trees planted to commemorate the jubilee. • CONSIDER AND APPROVE the proposal to establish a Community Supported Agriculture Farm on the Morriston Hospital site. 		

ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE ON LAND LOCATED ON THE MORRISTON HOSPITAL SITE

1. INTRODUCTION

As an anchor institution, the Health Board has assets which can be leveraged to benefit our population. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA) provides the foundations which underpins our strategic work and our approach to planning.

The Health Board is exploring innovative ways in which we can manage and develop our land, identifying ways in which we can direct our resources to achieve the maximum impact to support broader social, economic and environmental aims.

The Health Board became aware that Swansea's Food Poverty Network were seeking opportunities to establish Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) farms in the locality. This innovative initiative would support the Health Boards Wellbeing Objective which is to *'Seek to allocate our resources to meeting the needs of, and improving, the population's health'*.

2. BACKGROUND

The WBFGA Wales (2015) and the Environment Wales Act 2016 ensures that collaboration is a central theme of our work as it shapes opportunities for greater integration with other partners. (**Appendix 1** sets out how this project aligns to the WBFGA). Discussions have been held between the Health Board and representatives from an already established CSA in Parkmill on Gower.

Community Supported Agriculture Schemes

CSAs are not allotments (**Appendix 2**). They are single or small teams of principal growers who are then supported by members of the CSA and volunteers within the local community. It is a not for profit organisation. Revenue from the subscriptions contributes to daily operating costs and future investment in the initiative. Surplus produce provides fresh food to the foodbanks in & around the locality.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have recently funded a feasibility study which evidences that there is a requirement to have a CSA in the East of Swansea. (**Appendix 3**).

Infrastructure & Land requirements

A 7.5-acre suitable plot has been identified on the Morriston site. There are no planned healthcare developments on this site due to its topography and nature of the land. If approvals were granted the CSA felt that it would take them up to 12 months to prepare the site for planting.

Circular Economy

Initial discussions have been held with the Health Board's facilities department. The CSA are willing to provide at no cost to the Health Board sufficient vegetables on a

weekly basis for use in the hospital's catering department. Opportunities to use the hospital food waste and turn it into compost for use on the site are also being explored.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year

2022 is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and National tree planting initiative is being promoted in order to create a lasting legacy. The Health Board and the CSA would support this by planting trees on this site.

3. GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES

NWSSP – Specialist Estates Services land, property, and legal colleagues have been consulted and they have acknowledged the benefits of a CSA. They will inform the legal arrangements. Currently there is a grazing agreement on the land. Shared Services Partnership have advised that this can be terminated with the graziers with one month's written notice. Should the Health Board wish to develop the land in the future a 12-month written period of notice can be built into the CSA's agreement.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The CSA is a not for profit organisation The two existing CSAs in South West Wales pay their landlords a peppercorn rent.

During October's site visit, NRW stated that as this plot of land falls within the boundary lines of NRW's Regional Development Programme (RDP), it will allow them to access financial assistance. RDP funding forms part of Welsh Government's Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. NRW stated that they would restore all the broken hedgerows around the field with new hedgerows, thus providing a natural windbreaker to the site. This would improve the current condition of which the field is in.

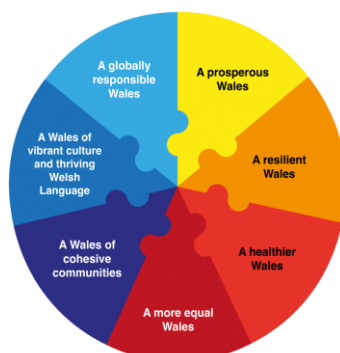
If the Health Board were to approve this scheme there will be no set up cost to the Health Board, peppercorn rental would be received and the CSA will operate on a not-for-profit basis. Upon the end of the agreement the land will be returned as was or in an improved state through the improvements that NRW would make to prepare the site being left in situ.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- **NOTE** that 2022 is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A UK wide group has been established to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee', for which funding is available. Health Boards will be expected to participate and the CSA land could lend itself to having a tree or trees planted to commemorate the jubilee.
- **CONSIDER AND APPROVE** the proposal to establish a Community Supported Agriculture Farm on the Morriston Hospital site.

Governance and Assurance		
Link to Enabling Objectives (please choose)	Supporting better health and wellbeing by actively promoting and empowering people to live well in resilient communities	
	Partnerships for Improving Health and Wellbeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Co-Production and Health Literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Health and Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deliver better care through excellent health and care services achieving the outcomes that matter most to people	
	Best Value Outcomes and High Quality Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partnerships for Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Outstanding Research, Innovation, Education and Learning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health and Care Standards		
(please choose)	Staying Healthy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Safe Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Effective Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dignified Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Timely Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Staff and Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience		
Through the joint partnership arrangements, the Health Board wants to enable services that seek to improve population health and wellbeing.		
Financial Implications		
As discussed within the paper, CSA are not for profit organisation, funding that they receive will enable them to maintain and improve the land. The scheme would be cost neutral.		
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)		
Advice has been received from NWSSP SES Land and Property and Legal and Risk. That advice is included within this paper.		
Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the Health Board has a duty to work in collaboration and integration to plan, commission and deliver services for the benefit of the population.		
Staffing Implications		
There are no direct staffing implications of this paper. There would be volunteering and training opportunities at the site.		
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)		
As discussed within the paper.		
Report History	None - This is the first time this proposal has been brought to Board.	
Appendices	Appendix 1 - How this project aligns with the WBFG Act Appendix 2 - CSA Infographic Appendix 3 - CSA Demand ~ NRW report	



How the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, supports establishing a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) on identified land on the Morriston Hospital site.

The purpose of this paper aims to present how Swansea University Health Board has aligned itself to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in its vision to create a Community Supported Agriculture on land at the Morriston Hospital site. Our approach is evidenced against the seven Wellbeing Goals.



A PROSPEROUS WALES

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

Encouraging Sustainable Behaviour: In many ways, encouraging sustainable behaviour in local communities is the key to creating a low carbon society that is able to recognise the limits of global resources.

Volunteering Opportunities: By offering volunteering opportunities a CSA initiative in Morriston would be able to contribute to developing skills and education for a

range of socio-economic groups, whilst acting as a potential gateway to work for the unemployed.

Employment Opportunities: By providing employment opportunities a CSA initiative can make a direct contribution to this goal.

Education & Training: By providing education and training opportunities to people of all ages a CSA initiative can contribute to providing people with the skills they need to seek further employment, whether in agriculture or elsewhere, in order to advantage of wealth generated by securing decent work.

Supporting Wider Enterprises: By Supporting local enterprises a CSA initiative can contribute to a prosperous Wales by supporting local business's which put back into the local economy through the staff they employ and their own expenditure.

Sustainable and Resilient Local Business & Contributing to Local Economies: By providing an enterprise which can provide long-term, employment, training and volunteering opportunities whilst contributing to the local economy.

Sustainable Land Management and Production System: By effective land management and sustainable approaches to production which can contribute to awareness around efficient and proportional use of natural resources.



A RESILIENT WALES

Encouraging Sustainable Behaviour: By encouraging sustainable behaviour amongst its participants a CSA in Morriston could further the goal of a resilient Wales. It could also raise awareness around wider environmental issues and increasingly bring these topics to “the political table”. A CSA, as a community group is able to drive change in their local area and ensure that nature and biodiversity can be accessed by all.

Sustainable Land Management and Production System: Through effective land management and use of organic and agro ecological production methods, a CSA in Morriston could contribute to this goal by enhancing the natural environment and creating and enhancing natural ecosystems. A CSA could also form part of a wider Green infrastructure plan by utilising green space for food production yet maintaining biodiversity and therefore supporting wider ecosystem services.

Supporting Wider Enterprises: By supporting the wider network of local sustainable producers a CSA in Morriston can further the goal of a resilient Wales by

supporting local producers who use similar techniques thereby increasing the spread of its impact and influence.

Sustainable and Resilient Local Business: The CSA model provides a sustainable and resilient model for a local social enterprise. As risks are shared across producer and membership this model is able to withstand change and uncertainty which may arise over changing weather patterns or general economic conditions.

Community Cohesion: A CSA in Morriston can contribute to this goal by providing a space for developing community cohesion and therefore social resilience and community wellbeing.

Education & Training & Volunteering Opportunities: A CSA could contribute to this wellbeing goal by increasing awareness of the importance of a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems through providing an education programme for learners of all ages and through the skills and knowledge gained through volunteering



A HEALTHIER WALES

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

Access to Quality Food: A CSA could contribute to this goal through the benefits described above, through providing quality food and produce to its members. We could also discuss with the Hospital Catering department to look to include food grown at the CSA and feed to it our patients and staff.

Health and Wellbeing: As discussed above a CSA could contribute to this goal by improving physical and mental wellbeing through providing opportunities for physical activity, provision of an inclusive community space and by providing access to a green space.

Volunteering Opportunities: By providing volunteering opportunities, a CSA can contribute to this goal by giving access to the wider community to some of the wellbeing benefits discussed above.

Community Cohesion: By improving community cohesion a CSA can contribute to this wellbeing goal by offering its members and volunteers a sense of community and belonging which can help improve mental wellbeing by combating loneliness and not belonging as well as drawing people from different socio-economic groups together.



A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).

Volunteering Opportunities: By offering volunteering opportunities a CSA initiative would be able to contribute to developing skills and education for a range of socio-economic groups, whilst acting as a potential gateway to work for the unemployed.

Employment Opportunities: By providing employment opportunities a CSA initiative can make a direct contribution to this goal.

Education & Training: By providing education and training opportunities to people of all ages a CSA initiative can contribute to providing people with the skills they need to seek further employment, whether in agriculture or elsewhere.



A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Attractive, safe, viable and well-connected communities in Wales.

Community Cohesion: By improving community cohesion a CSA in Swansea East can contribute to this wellbeing goal by offering its members and volunteers a sense of community and belonging which can help improve mental wellbeing by combating loneliness and not belonging as well as drawing people from different socio-economic groups together.

Supporting Wider Enterprises: By Supporting local enterprises a CSA initiative can contribute to a cohesive Wales by supporting local business's which put back into the local economy through the staff they employ and their own expenditure as well as building on the social capital provided by a CSA by connecting with the wider business community and offering a sense that small enterprises can work together to draw communities together.

Sustainable and Resilient Local Business & Contributing to Local Economies: By providing an enterprise, which can provide long-term, employment, training and volunteering opportunities whilst contributing to the local economy. By providing a sustainable social enterprise a CSA can ensure that the benefits to the wider community are long term and resilient to changes in the economy and sources of funding.



A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE & THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

Community Cohesion: By improving community cohesion a CSA in Swansea East can contribute to this wellbeing goal by offering its members and volunteers a sense of community and belonging which can help improve mental wellbeing by combating loneliness and not belonging as well as drawing people from different socio-economic groups together.

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Sustainable and Resilient Local Business & Contributing to Local Economies: By providing an enterprise which can provide long-term, employment, training and volunteering opportunities whilst contributing to the local economy. By providing a sustainable social enterprise a CSA can ensure that the benefits to the wider community are long term and resilient to changes in the economy and sources of funding.

Food is used to celebrate our heritage and Welsh language. People come to Wales to experience our food, drink and hospitality. Welsh cuisine and food culture is encouraged in the food service and hospitality sectors. Food initiatives are inserted as part of Welsh language training and school curricula. Food is recognised as a fundamental part of the 'Foundational Economy', enabling local communities to regenerate and become more socially and culturally vibrant



A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Encouraging Sustainable Behaviour: By encouraging sustainable behaviour a CSA within the Morriston area can contribute to this goal by increasing awareness of wider social and environmental issues.

Sustainable and Resilient Local Business & Supporting Wider Enterprises: By supporting local business and operating a model that puts consumer in direct touch with producer, a CSA in Morriston can ensure that supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable.

Volunteering Opportunities, Employment Opportunities & Education & Training: By providing various opportunities for people to access the CSA and learn from it, a CSA can contribute towards this wellbeing goal through the skills that people who access it develop and take out into the wider community.

● Introduction

This research project is a feasibility study seeking to establish how a CSA can be set up in Swansea East or the wider urban area. The study was commissioned by Cae Tan CSA with initial funding from Natural Resources Wales. The end goal was to create a report that can act as a blueprint for taking the project forward in terms of establishing the CSA through sourcing funding, attracting members and establishing a site. The main points focused on CSA benefits and strategic fit, demand and access to land. This document aims to summarise the key points and set out the next steps and action plan for moving the project forward.

● What is CSA?

CSA (community supported agriculture) is a form of community agriculture which puts the producer in direct contact with the consumer and seeks to foster that relationship so that both consumer and producer take responsibility for how their food is produced and how it reaches the table. The Soil Association defines CSA as:

“Community Supported Agriculture means any food, fuel or fibre producing initiative where the community shares the risks and rewards of production, whether through ownership, investment, sharing the costs of production, or provision of labour” (Soil Association, 2011)

● Who Gets Involved?

Involvement in CSA can be a result of environmental and social views and a commitment to obtain, at least, some of their food from a local, sustainable source where they know exactly where and how production is taking place. Other reasons for joining include access to healthy and high-quality food, supporting local farmers and to help build an environmentally friendly alternative to the mainstream food system.

Share in The Harvest Model: Members pay a subscription to the CSA, which entitles them to a share in the harvest each week and the revenues from the subscriptions pay for daily operating costs and future investment.

● Positive Impacts

CSA initiatives can provide a range of positive impacts for their members and the wider community. They can provide both direct and indirect benefits. Through effective management and consideration any CSA initiative has the opportunity to provide the benefits listed below to the wider community in their local area.

Direct Benefits

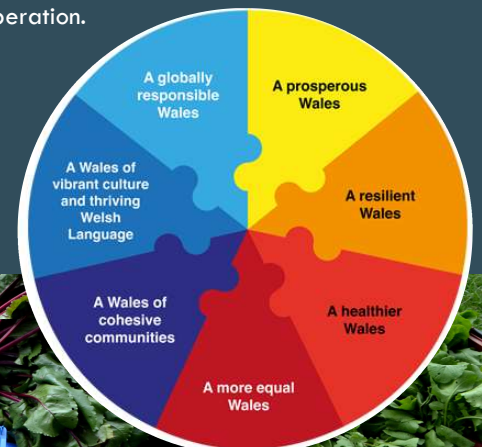
- **Access to local sustainable Food**
- **Positive land management**
- **Employment opportunities**
- **Volunteering and training opportunities**
- **Education and training**

Indirect Benefits

- **Community cohesion**
- **Contributing to the local economy**
- **Raising awareness of wider environmental issues**
- **Encouraging sustainable behaviour**
- **Improvements to the local environment and biodiversity**
- **Improvements to health and wellbeing**

● Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

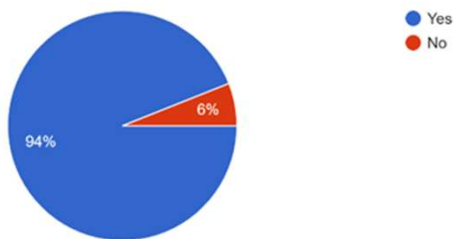
The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (WBFGA) is a law brought in by the Welsh Government in 2015 to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The act creates 7 wellbeing goals that public bodies must work towards when considering the long-term impacts of decisions they make on the long-term health and wellbeing of the local and national community. There are a number of ways a CSA initiative can contribute towards the achievement of these goals through the positive impact of their operation.



● Community Consultation Survey

As part of the feasibility study an online survey was conducted with residents of Swansea. The purpose of this survey was to act as a public consultation to establish whether there is demand for a CSA initiative in Swansea East or the wider Swansea urban area. The survey consisted of 18 questions designed to establish, not only whether there was demand for a CSA initiative but also sought establish how that demand was spread over the city and which demographic groups this comes from. The survey also aimed to act as a consultation about how much people would be prepared to pay for a weekly box, whether they would travel for collection and other questions surrounding what local people would want out of such an initiative.

Would you consider joining a weekly, local veg box scheme?
183 responses



One of the main points of this survey was to establish demand for a CSA by asking whether local people would consider joining a weekly, local veg box scheme. Of the 183 respondents to this question 94% said they would consider joining such a scheme, therefore establishing high demand. The question was framed using the term veg box scheme rather than CSA to avoid confusion in what CSA actually means. The survey was also able to establish that there is a demand for volunteering opportunities on such a project. This shows that by providing volunteer services which people wish to take up a CSA, falls in line with the goal of a Prosperous Wales. Also, by providing education and training, which can be accessed through volunteering this aligns with the goal of a Resilient Wales and allows participants to take advantage of the number of other benefits gained from outdoor volunteering opportunities. Other results worth mentioning were that demand is not exclusive to any age or income group and the amounts that people would be willing to pay for a share are in line with what is currently being charged by other local CSA's.

● Access To Land

Access to land is one of the main issues crucial to the development of a successful CSA in Swansea. This study aimed to look at the different methods of accessing land in order to present a range of options for the development of a CSA. For the purpose of this study 50 shares were considered as an appropriate starting point however this number could vary depending on the size of an available site and what production methods were used. For example, going on stats from Cae Tan, each full share household requires approximately 330m². This will produce food all year round and earn approximately £650 per member per year. Therefore a site of 16500 m², approximately 4 acres, could support 50 full shares. This figure reflects that Cae Tan grow most of their main crops such as potatoes and carrots which use a lot of space. A smaller site could be used which focus's on growing high value crops and buying in cheaper staples. Other key points to be considered are the visibility and accessibility of a site. Having a site that can be accessed easily without the need of personal transport is key to ensuring that all members of the community can access it. It is also worth considering how an open visible site could attract interest from people who may not come across these kinds of projects in their day to day life.

- **Requirements**
 - Public or private land
 - 330m² = 1 full Share
 - 16,500 m² (4 acres) = 50 full shares
 - Accessible & visible

● Next Steps

Next Steps

- Continue to promote project and make further contacts.
- Continue the search for an appropriate site in Swansea to establish a CSA.
- Consider what funding is available to set up and establish a project once a site has been found.
- Continue to engage the general public, following from the positive public engagement created by the community consultation survey.

For more information on this initiative or to request a copy of the full study please don't hesitate to contact: roberthernando@hotmail.co.uk



Community Supported Agriculture in Swansea.

A feasibility study investigating the viability and requirements
for starting a CSA initiative in Swansea East or the wider
Swansea Urban area.

Robert Hernando

Community Supported Agriculture in Swansea East/Urban area

Introduction

This research project is a feasibility study which has been set up by Cae Tan CSA, with initial funding provided by Natural Resources Wales, seeking to establish how a CSA can be set up in Swansea East or the wider urban area in Swansea. The end goal will be to create a report that can act as a blueprint for taking the project forward in terms of establishing the CSA through sourcing funding, attracting members and establishing a site. The main points focused on CSA benefits and strategic fit, demand and access to land.

Sections 1-5 in this report seeks to investigate the wider concepts around CSA initiatives and what benefits they can bring to their local community. Further to this, local and national policy relating to sustainability and community development has been assessed to determine how a CSA initiative can fit in with and help further the goals of national and local policy.

Section 6 gives an analysis of an online questionnaire designed to assess demand for a CSA in the city as well as gain an understanding of what people want out of any eventual CSA.

Section 7 details the research done around access to land in the city as well as listing some potential sites and alternative solutions to accessing land in the city.

This report will conclude with a summary of research and recommendations regarding the next steps in establishing a CSA in Swansea East or the wider Swansea urban area.

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1. What is Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

CSA (community supported agriculture) is a form of community agriculture which puts the producer in direct contact with the consumer and seeks to foster that relationship so that both consumer and producer take responsibility for how their food is produced and how it reaches the table. The Soil Association defines CSA as:

“Community Supported Agriculture means any food, fuel or fibre producing initiative where the community shares the risks and rewards of production, whether through ownership, investment, sharing the costs of production, or provision of labour” (Soil Association, 2011)

Unlike allotment schemes CSA takes a more communal approach to growing. Rather than having individual plots which are the responsibility of individual, families or small groups, CSA will generally feature a single or small team of principle growers who are then supported by the members of the CSA and the local community, who will then cultivate the whole site collectively. Most CSA initiatives operate a Share in The Harvest Model. This is where members effectively pay a subscription to the CSA, generally on a weekly or monthly basis, which entitles them to a share in the harvest each week and the revenues from the subscriptions go towards daily operating costs and future investment in the initiative.

Most CSA farms aim to provide high quality fresh local produce to their consumers and in general, use organic and biodynamic farming methods to produce the best possible product with minimal impact on the environment. As a result of this the methods used can be more labour intensive and require more people on site. This could be seen as a disadvantage; however, a key focus of CSA is reconnecting consumers with their food so having volunteer days, community groups etc is viewed far more as a help rather than a hinderance!

2. Priorities – Who gets involved?

In general involvement in CSA is as a result of environmental and social views and a commitment to obtain, at least, some of their food from a local, sustainable source where they know exactly where and how production is taking place. Further to this when the Soil Association conducted a survey of CSA members in 2011, they found that the main reason cited for joining a CSA was for provision of more sustainably sourced local food. Other reasons for joining include access to healthy and high-quality food, supporting local farmers and to help build an environmentally friendly alternative to the mainstream food system.

3. Assets

CSA can be characterised as bringing a set of different assets together in order to form a wider enterprise. These assets can be understood by considering them within the framework of five capitals suggested by the Sustainable Livelihoods approach.

Human Capital	Motivation for participation, skills, knowledge, health and wellbeing of members and farmers and improvements to these, where attributable to the initiative.
Social Capital	Social resources, including informal networks, membership of formalised groups and relationships of trust that facilitate co-operation (e.g. with other farmers or community groups).

Natural Capital	Quality and quantity of natural resources available to the CSA initiatives, including land, water and soil quality.
Physical Capital	Basic infrastructure, such as irrigation and on-farm sanitation, offices and buildings, computers and communications technology, tools, vehicles and other equipment.
Financial Capital	Financial resources including savings, credit, and income from farm sales of goods and services (for example produce and training).

3.1 Human Capital

Human Capital in reference to CSA initiatives could be regarded as the members, volunteers and employees. The importance of each of these can vary from each CSA to another. Most initiatives require a mix of agricultural, business management and community organisation skills. As a result of this they provide a brilliant opportunity for sharing and expanding personal skills and building human capital. This can be achieved through providing ongoing opportunities for skill development through formal and informal training which can be provided to both employees and volunteers.

In order for a CSA to function, sufficient and appropriately skilled labour is required. This is often provided through a combination of volunteers and paid employees. In general volunteers are derived from the membership but can also come from people generally interested in community agriculture. The amount of volunteer support can be varied and is not always 100% reliable so it is worth considering providing paid labour as a goal, along with environmental and community goals, in order to provide a regular and more consistent source of labour as well as the additional benefits to the wider community by providing employment that can develop personal skills.

A key source of human capital can be derived from the membership and their commitment to support the CSA's agricultural production. The way in which members are engaged can vary from one CSA to another, however in general, as a result of the diverse nature of CSA membership they can provide an active resource in terms of the agricultural, business management and community development skills required to successfully run and manage a sustainable CSA.

3.2 Social Capital

CSA initiatives are able to draw social capital through existing community and agroecology networks as well as from the contacts of their participants. They can also generate substantial social capital through the network they create through their membership and operations as shown by Cae Tan and the agroecological businesses that have formed as a result of this (Big Meadow, Frans Salads, Lizzies flowers, Summit good etc.).

The membership of a CSA provides a wealth of social capital in terms of the individual skills, knowledge and experience brought by the diversity of people attracted to joining a CSA. This also increases the network reach of a CSA by giving it some degree of access to the network and contacts of its membership.

Any CSA project is able to take advantage of the support provided by the wider CSA and community agriculture network. This could be in the form of advice from the CSA network formed by the Soil Association or groups such as Social Farms and Gardens or Tyfu Cymru. This wider network is able to provide advice through its start-up and during its operation enforcing the sustainability of such a project.

3.3 Natural Capital

In general CSA initiatives are land-based enterprises and access to sufficient suitable land is a key requirement. Accessing land for a CSA can be one of the main challenges when establishing a new project and this will be explored further in the local context later in this report.

The land used by different CSA projects can range from 1 acre to over 100 acres. The Soil Association report; *The Impact of Community Supported Agriculture* (2011) found a median of 6 acres across the CSA's it surveyed in 2011. It found that a majority of initiatives work on a small holding/market garden approach on a scale of 1-20 acres.

In many cases accessing land can be the main challenge when starting up and also presents the main challenge when considering future development and expansion. As a result of its trading model, some CSA's are able to expand and seek further land for expansion once full capacity for its membership is reached. The quality of land, water and soil can be variable and often depends on what land is available at the time. Accessibility can also be an important factor when considering a site depending on the overall goals of an initiative.

Most CSA initiatives (61%) rent all the land that they use whilst a smaller proportion (20%) are in share farming, part-rent and other arrangements. A smaller proportion (19%) wholly own all their land (Soil Association, 2011). In most cases land is rented at market value from a local landowner, however in some cases land has been made available by a local authority, individual, business or organisation at a little or no cost.

Most CSA initiatives manage their land well, following sustainable methods of production which foster and support biodiversity. By their operation many CSA's increase the overall amount of land that is being managed to organic principles, plant more tree's and hedgerows and introduce specific wildlife areas on their land. By having a broad and diverse range of crops many CSA initiatives contribute to increasing agrobiodiversity and natural biodiversity which can support many species of animals and insects. It has also been found that most CSA's invest in improvements to their land through fencing, hedging, irrigation and building fertility.

3.4 Physical Capital

CSA initiatives have a requirement for physical capital. This generally takes the form of buildings, vehicles and agricultural equipment which is required for operation. This requirement for a basic level of physical capital needed for operation can prove to be a hurdle for community led initiatives which are starting from scratch and can require a larger capital investment to start off with. Producer led and community-producer initiatives benefit from having access to the physical capital which is brought in by the producers involved.

Access to physical capital can be provided through the social capital of its members, contacts and wider network. This can take place through informal borrowing arrangements. There is potential scope for borrowing equipment in Swansea through Cae Tan CSA or Big Meadow CSA.

In general, most CSA's require some sort of building or shelter to provide storage, packing facilities and an area for break times. As shown by Cae Tan CSA this can be provided relatively simply by having one large shed which can cater for all these needs. Having buildings on site can be a problem when gaining access to land and the implications of planning regulations particularly if it is a community led initiative starting from scratch. Furthermore, a community focused CSA may wish to expand its operations by having a space for providing education and training which would further the need for physical capital in the form of buildings and equipment required for this purpose.

Adequate equipment is a key requirement to successfully operating a CSA initiative. This can range from small hand tools to larger items such as polytunnels or farm machinery. Whilst setting up a CSA it may be possible to secure funding to purchase a base level of equipment with further equipment purchased through funds which are generated by the trading of the initiative.

3.5 Financial Capital

In general, CSA initiatives are designed with the idea of mutual support and liability between consumer and producer, though a central part of this relationship is the exchange of money for goods. CSA initiatives are also likely to rely on 1 or more paid members of staff as well as support from volunteers. Also given that in lots of situations land is rented it is essential that a CSA has adequate start-up capital and can turnover sufficiently to sustain paying wages, potentially renting land and upkeep of equipment. Further to this it would be beneficial for

an initiative to accumulate a cash reserve for security in terms of repairing or replacing vital equipment or buying in vegetables from other producers to cover shortfalls.

In terms of start-up capital most initiatives rely on funds raised through members subscriptions to cover start-up costs. This can be raised by asking members if they are willing to pay for an initial period, such as 6 months up front. Many also access grant funding to help with initial start-up costs as well as loans from members and community fund raising.

The primary source of income for most CSA initiatives comes from its trading activities, however many will generate some additional income through grant funding, community fund raising and donations. Grant funding is an excellent source for start-up capital and can be used to fund other initiatives linked with the CSA such as providing education and training and community development. However, it is important that A CSA is able to support its basic operation from its trading as grant funding cannot be 100% relied on to fund a sustainable initiative as funding objectives and sources can change as time progresses.

Most, if not all, of the trading that takes place is between the CSA and its membership. The membership generally pays in advance via a monthly subscription which entitles them to a share in the harvest. This provides a steady income for the CSA and provides good cash flow once a sustainable size is reached. Some CSA initiatives will have a minimum period of membership and take payment of subscriptions in advance. Some will also trade with non-members to support their income.

As most CSA initiatives rely on subscription fees as their primary source of income, their cashflow and revenue is closely related to the numbers of members. In order for a CSA to survive and remain sustainable it must, as a base, be able to cover its costs from its membership by having sufficient members. Therefore, it must find a balance between having enough income from membership but also being able to comfortably provide sufficient shares for that membership. Being able to produce enough produce is also closely linked to how much land is available for production.

4. Impacts of CSA

CSA initiatives can provide a broad range of beneficial impacts for their members and the wider community. They can provide both direct and indirect benefits. Direct benefits include provision of local, sustainable food, positive land management, employment, training and volunteering opportunities as well as having an ability to tackle social issues such as food poverty and provide education around sustainable food systems, healthy eating and preparing nutritious meals. The indirect benefits could be improved community cohesion, promoting well-being and contributing to the local economy. Further to this they can also raise awareness of wider environmental issues, encourage more sustainable behaviour and improve the local environment and biodiversity through effective land management.

4.1 Access to quality food

CSA initiatives are set up to provide high quality locally produced food to its members. This food is produced and supplied locally, seasonally and with organic or other sustainable standards. This can be food produced by the CSA or bought from other local producers who operate to the same sustainable standards. The fact that the food is produced to a high standard, is healthy and nutritious and affordable are the main reasons many members are attracted to joining a CSA.

As a result of the way CSA's are set up and run without profit as the primary focus of their operations, they can ensure that there is access to everyone, despite socio economic barriers, to high quality, healthy and nutritious food. Whilst there are barriers to different people joining CSAs such as lack of awareness, location and the ability to commit financially anyone can theoretically get involved in a CSA. These barriers can be overcome through effective planning and direction of the overall mission of a CSA. For example, a CSA could raise awareness by its visibility and presence, which would be particularly effective when considering a large urban area such as Swansea East. This awareness can further be built on by providing access to the general public through open

days, bringing in school groups and parents and by providing education and training in terms of food production but also how to prepare the food that has been produced.

Whilst most CSA's operate on a share in the harvest model, it is possible when planning a CSA to provision for people who cannot afford or are unable to commit to a subscription by operating a work share scheme – where participants volunteer to work in exchange for food- or by provisioning an excess of production which can be accessed by the local community through the food bank network. These are innovative ways that can be used to tackle the growing issue of food poverty: *worse diet, worse access, worse health, higher percentage of income on food and less choice from a restricted range of foods. Above all food poverty is about less or almost no consumption of fruit and vegetables.* (Prof. Tim Lang)

Whilst it has been difficult to find specific and current data sets regarding food poverty in Swansea East below are some key points from the report: Food Poverty in South Wales: A call to action, commissioned by the South Wales Food Poverty Alliance.

- In 2017-18 98,350 three-day emergency food supplies were provided to people in Wales in crisis by food banks in The Trussell Trust. Of these, 35,403 went to children.
- According to the Food Standards Agency a fifth of people in Wales are worried about running out of food and 26% of 16-34 year olds surveyed in Wales ran out of food in the past year.
- The Food Foundation has shown that 160,000 children in Wales are living in households for whom a healthy diet is increasingly unaffordable.
- Reception-age children in Wales are significantly more likely than the Welsh average to be obese, if they live in areas of higher deprivation. The gap between obesity prevalence in the most and least deprived quintiles has increased from 4.7% in 2015/16 to 6.2% in 2016/17.

Whilst food poverty is a massive issue, it is possible for a CSA initiative to have a positive impact in its local community. A CSA in Swansea East could be set up with part of its mission being to address some of these issues through provisioning excess production, supplying excess produce to local food banks, offering education and training around nutrition and preparing healthy food and acting as an outlet for the Swansea Food Bank Referral scheme.

4.2 Encouraging Sustainable Behaviour

CSA initiatives are brilliant at raising awareness of wider sustainability and environmental issues. This is often a large part of the aim of a CSA and its members. By producing a wide range of different crops in a small space, they provide a visual and practical example of what can be achieved using small scale organic agricultural techniques. Also, by having this diversity in planting and by not using herbicides and pesticides they can provide a habitat for many insects, birds and mammals which may not otherwise have been there.

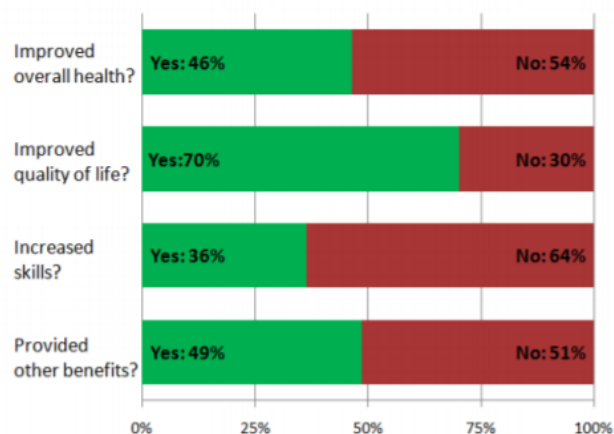
In many cases CSA initiatives encourage further local shopping in their membership, often as a result of access to a wider range of local producers in their network, as shown by the availability of duck eggs, and Gower beef and lamb which can be purchased off a third party but collected at the same time as veg collection at Cae Tan CSA. Also, by their very nature CSA initiatives encourage more seasonal eating as what is available and produced is guided by the British seasons. This can be a huge impact of CSA initiatives as many people are accustomed to the current food system where any product is available at any time of year and that knowledge of seasonal food has gradually been lost.

CSA's provide excellent scope for educating children regarding sustainability and food production and systems. Research carried out by the soil association in 2011 found that this was a key reason for many parent's involvement in CSA initiatives. This is reflected by the success of Cae Tans sustainable schools' program and the number of children who have been to the site to volunteer alongside their parents. They are also brilliantly placed to conduct outdoor education in many areas of the curriculum such as food and nutrition, wider environmental issues and increase physical activity amongst children who participate.

4.3 Health and Wellbeing

There are many beneficial effects on quality of life, health, skills and other aspects of personal wellbeing that CSA members attribute to membership of a CSA.

Effects attributed by members to involvement in CSA initiative



Research carried out by the soil association in 2011 found that 70% of members said that their overall quality of life had improved after becoming a member of a CSA. Many of the members surveyed also reported an improvement in general health, social benefits, educational benefits and increased awareness of their local environment.

Other improvements to general wellbeing that can occur as a result of CSA membership include: increased physical activity and exercise, combatting loneliness and isolation, learning new skills, improved mental health, access to a healthier more nutritious diet and learning the skills needed to cook and prepare healthy meals.

4.4 Volunteering Opportunities

Most CSA initiatives provide volunteering opportunities for both members and non-members. Volunteering from the membership is the essence of connecting a producer with the consumer in that the consumer has a direct relationship with the production of the food they are consuming and the person who produces it by being on site, rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty. This can be the main way that people are able to benefit from improvements to wellbeing such as increased physical activity, social networks and learning new skills. Also, by providing volunteering opportunities for non-members a CSA is able to provide the wider community with some of these wellbeing benefits. Volunteering itself can provide a gateway to work for the unemployed, can improve mental health and combat isolation and loneliness by providing a sense of community.

4.5 Employment Opportunities

Research by the soil association in 2011 found that two thirds of CSA initiatives provide employment opportunities with an average of 2.6 full time equivalent employees. These employment opportunities can take the form of growers directly responsible for production but can also provide indirect employment opportunities in the form of education staff, as is the case with Cae Tan CSA, or also office and administration staff.

CSA initiatives can also provide a different route into agriculture for new entrants who may find the sector less attractive or inaccessible through conventional routes. In general CSA initiatives start off as small enterprises which are manageable to people who are not experienced in traditional agriculture and can then grow and expand along with the skills of its employees and volunteers. Given the social and human capital provided by CSA initiatives they can be a more welcoming and supportive environment to new entrants.

In Swansea, where unemployment is currently at 4.5% which is higher than the Welsh average at 4.1% and national average of 3.9%, providing employment opportunities should be a focus and goal of setting up any new initiative, particularly in Swansea East where unemployment was found to be higher in Swansea East than the rest of Swansea in the 2011 census.

4.6 Education & Training

Most CSA initiatives provide some form of training and education for their members, volunteers and employees. This can take the form of informal training of volunteers on site, formal training opportunities, such as the trainee programme at Cae Tan or the opportunity to partner with schools or colleges with students who wish to receive training to access an alternative route into agriculture. Whilst most CSA initiatives are set up to produce food, they can also consider the provision of education and training as one of their products or goals.

The wider CSA network also provides a supportive network from which training and support can be provided for new and existing entrants into the agroecological sector. The Landworkers alliance provide a mentoring scheme to entrants into the sector who have already started in the sector but have less than 5 years' experience and organisations such as Tyfu Cymru can provide ongoing support to new and existing enterprises.

4.7 Supporting Wider Enterprises

CSA initiatives can play an important part in supporting wider social enterprises and farming businesses. Whilst the primary focus of a CSA is to provide affordable, healthy local food to its members it can support a number of other social goals through providing volunteering, training and employment opportunities. CSA initiatives can also provide an opportunity for very small-scale producers to access a market to sell their produce, where they may otherwise have struggled. This can be achieved by buying in stock to supplement shares produced by the CSA or by providing them direct access to the membership for additional direct sales. This is exemplified by the opportunity for Cae Tan members to purchase duck eggs, local lamb and beef or additional salads from small scale local producers. This is providing a benefit to the producer by having access to a captive market already interested in local food, and for the consumer who wishes to purchase locally but may not be sure where to turn.

4.8 Sustainable & Resilient Local Business

Research by the Soil Association found that the annual income from sales and subscriptions varies from under £5000 to £250000. In general, lower income CSA initiatives are either very new or limited by access to land. However, the more established CSA initiatives provide an example of a viable model able to support itself and build substantial sales. This, along with the support of the wider social capital provided can by a CSA can spawn further enterprises and initiatives which provide further employment and equity opportunities for the local community.

CSA initiatives have proved to be a particularly resilient business model for a number of reasons. This is due to the way CSA is designed and structured to share the burden of production across the producer and the consumer, resulting in a guaranteed fair price throughout the year, free from market fluctuations. As payment for produce is taken in advance CSA initiatives do not suffer cash flow issues that can characterise conventional agriculture therefore ensuring a more sustainable resilient business. Further to this as CSA initiatives by their very nature embody short, local supply chains they are resilient against fluctuations in international markets and international trading arrangements, as exemplified by the uncertainty of Brexit and the current US trade deal. Also as a result of the agroecological and organic methods employed by most CSA initiatives, such as using green manure or animal manure, means they are more resilient in the sense that they do not rely on chemical fertilisers and pesticides and are therefore immune to fluctuations in their prices and are not reliant on a large scale agricultural supplier.

As a result of the Share in The Harvest model used by many CSA initiatives the risks and benefits are shared by the producer and consumer. This creates a more resilient model as consumers are invested in production itself so are less likely to switch suppliers in difficult times and are more likely to support a producer when things go wrong, such as flooding, drought or storm damage. Given that extreme weather events are becoming more and

more frequent even in South Wales, this equitable sharing of risk provides a business model better prepared to deal with the coming uncertainties around climate and weather. Also, as a result of the closer relationship between consumer and producer many CSA members are willing to support the CSA through times of crisis by accepting a smaller share, volunteering (e.g. repairing after storm damage) or by providing emergency financial support.

4.9 Contributing to Local Economies

CSA initiatives provide a relatively secure and sustainable market for their producers. This is as a result of the fact that most CSA initiatives operate a model that takes payment in advance of the harvest and therefore have some protection to fluctuations in yield.

Research by the soil association in 2011 found that most CSA initiatives are economically very small with 58% operating with an annual income of less than £20000, however 17% have an income over £100,000. This shows that under the right conditions there is scope for a CSA to expand to a relatively large enterprise.

CSA initiatives are dynamic enterprises. In research carried out by the Soil Association in 2011, they found that 38% would like to expand their enterprise. Of these 56% in order to improve their offering and 31% to diversify into other areas.

Of the CSA initiatives surveyed in 2011, 67% reported a profit in the last trading year whilst 22% broke even. Of these 89% invested their profit back into the enterprise, whilst 17% invested in new enterprises, furthering the case for a positive impact on the wider local economy. None of these initiatives distributed profits to its members.

CSA initiatives can also provide benefits for the wider business community in the area they are based or further afield. This can occur directly, by purchasing produce from other local producers or producers further afield. This can contribute to the overall agroecological industry by expanding the marketplace for produce grown using organic and sustainable principles. Indirectly local business can benefit through spending activity relating to the CSA. This can be as a result of increased footfall at collection points, e.g. Little Valley Bakery providing extended opening hours for collection times, or accommodation used by the CSA to house guests, trainees or employees. Further to this most CSA members are more likely to shop locally for the rest of their food and therefore contribute more to the local economy.

4.10 Community Cohesion

CSA initiatives have a positive impact on the broader community within which they exist. This is achieved by bringing people together who otherwise would not have mixed and providing a space and focal point for community activity. CSA initiatives provide different means of bringing people together. This can range from conversations at pick up points, to attending events with guest speakers organised by the CSA or attending a harvest celebration event.

By providing opportunities for volunteering and training they also provide a diverse environment where people from many different backgrounds are able to mix together whilst completing shared tasks such as bringing in the harvest or erecting a polytunnel. This can occur at weekly informal volunteering sessions or something such as a polytunnel party – where members of the CSA get together to complete a large task such as erecting and preparing a poly tunnel and share food and drinks following completion of the task.

Given that, under the current climate of Covid – 19 and social distancing, having opportunities for people and communities to get together on a shared project outside whilst being able to observe social distancing rules will be vital to maintain community cohesion and support individual personal wellbeing.

CSA initiatives also provide excellent links with other social projects and enterprises and can provide mutual support. This can take the form of a direct partnership or simply by providing a space for different groups to access. This project itself has attracted support from different groups such as the National Autism Society who would potentially utilise such a space for running activities with their members.

4.11 Sustainable Land Management and Production System

Most CSA initiatives manage their land using sustainable or organic methods which foster biodiversity and agro-biodiversity, by having a range of crops over a small area. CSA initiatives in general are quite open about the management of their land providing examples of effective land management and opening themselves up for scrutiny of poor land management.

Further to this organic and agroecological methods of production have been shown to:

- **Increase ecological resilience**, especially with respect to volatile weather conditions;
- **Improve health and nutrition** through more diverse, nutritious and fresh diets and reduced incidence of pesticide poisonings and pesticide-related diseases;
- **Conserve biodiversity and natural resources** such as soil organic matter, water, crop genetic diversity and natural enemies of pests;
- **Improve economic stability** with more diverse sources of income, spread of labour needs and production over time, and reduced vulnerability to commodity price swings; and
- **Mitigate effects of climate change** through reduced reliance on fossil fuels and fossil fuel-based agricultural inputs, increased carbon sequestration and water capture in soil.
- (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/renewable-agriculture-and-food-systems/article/organic-agriculture-and-the-global-food-supply/93DD2635AC706B08EE68B881D17A143B> & https://unctad.org/en/docs/ditcted200715_en.pdf

5. Community Agriculture in the Local Context

In terms of existing community agriculture and food growing opportunities there are a number of different organisations and schemes, already established across the city.

There are 16 allotment sites dotted across the city. These are represented by individual allotment associations and give individuals, families or groups the opportunity to rent a plot and cultivate their own space. Rental fees are decided by each allotment association and its members and can vary from site to site. Each allotment manages its own waiting list so waiting times for a plot could vary depending on local demand.

In terms of CSA initiatives there are 2 CSA operations operating in the Swansea area. Both are located in the primarily rural area of Gower and service local communities there. Cae Tan is an established CSA providing shares to 120 households and offers an education programme with local school, volunteering opportunities and offers training for prospective growers. Big Meadow CSA is a newly established CSA (2020) which has been created by a former trainee of Cae Tan. They are operating on a smaller scale initially but offer the same volunteering opportunities and community development opportunities offered by Cae Tan.

Swansea Council also aims to support communities in accessing healthy and affordable food. They aim to do this by working with partners to increase the amount of healthy and affordable food available at community level, providing education and training on how to shop and cook on a budget and providing communities with the opportunities to grow their own food. As a result of this Swansea Council are working to increase the number of growing spaces available to communities and are looking to identify area that have little or no growing spaces.

Swansea Community Growing Network is also a key institution in Swansea when considering community agriculture in the city. It is network that has been set up to promote and support community growing in Swansea. In order to do this the network serves as a means to connect different growing projects in Swansea to provide support to new projects. The network also aims to share knowledge and skills across existing projects and also aims to promote community growing across the Swansea area. Swansea Community Growing Network already have a proven track

record working with community growing projects across the city. Please see:
<https://swanseacommunitygrowing.weebly.com/> for more info.

Swansea is also host to the only city farm in Wales, Swansea Community Farm. The city farm has been established for 20 years and has a range of animal crops and gardens on site. The farm has been offering volunteering opportunities to a number of different participants. If a CSA were to be established in Swansea the city farm would be happy to promote it amongst its volunteers as another volunteering opportunity in the city.

Swansea also has access to a number of different markets. The city centre boasts a large indoor market with a number of local suppliers located there. There are also regular pop up markets in the city. Uplands and the Marina market host a number of different local producers and suppliers from across the area. These markets provide a great opportunity to make contact with local suppliers and producers and make promote a CSA initiative.

6. Strategic Fit

6.1 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

The Wellbeing of future Generations Act (WBFGA) is a law brought in by the Welsh Government in 2015 to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The act creates a legal obligation for the public bodies it covers to consider the long-term impacts of decisions they make on the long-term health and wellbeing of the local and national community. It also encourages these public bodies to work better with communities and each other and to act with a focus on reducing and preventing persistent issues such as poverty, health inequities and climate change. In order to achieve these goals, the WBFGA has put in place seven wellbeing goals that all listed public bodies must work towards.

6.1.1 A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

A CSA in Swansea East could contribute towards this wellbeing goal due to the positive impacts detailed in section 4:

- **4.2 Encouraging Sustainable Behaviour:** In many ways encouraging sustainable behaviour in local communities is the key to creating a low carbon society that is able to recognise the limits of global resources.
- **4.4 Volunteering Opportunities:** By offering volunteering opportunities a CSA initiative in Swansea East would be able to contribute to developing skills and education for a range of socio-economic groups, whilst acting as a potential gateway to work for the unemployed.
- **4.5 Employment Opportunities:** By providing employment opportunities a CSA initiative can make a direct contribution to this goal.
- **4.6 Education & Training:** By providing education and training opportunities to people of all ages a CSA initiative can contribute to providing people with the skills they need to seek further employment, whether in agriculture or elsewhere, in order to advantage of wealth generated by securing decent work.
- **4.7 Supporting Wider Enterprises:** By Supporting local enterprises a CSA initiative can contribute to a prosperous Wales by supporting local business's which put back into the local economy through the staff they employ and their own expenditure.

- **4.8 Sustainable and Resilient Local Business & 4.9 Contributing to Local Economies:** By providing an enterprise which can provide long-term, employment, training and volunteering opportunities whilst contributing to the local economy.
- **4.11 Sustainable Land Management and Production System:** By effective land management and sustainable approaches to production which can contribute to awareness around efficient and proportional use of natural resources.

6.1.2 A Resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.

A CSA in Swansea East could contribute towards this wellbeing goal due to its positive impacts detailed in section 4:

- **4.2 Encouraging Sustainable Behaviour:** By encouraging sustainable behaviour amongst its participants a CSA in Swansea East could further the goal of a resilient Wales. It could also raise awareness around wider environmental issues and increasingly bring these topics to “the political table”. A CSA, as a community group is able to drive change in their local area and ensure that nature and biodiversity can be accessed by all.
- **4.11 Sustainable Land Management and Production System:** Through effective land management and use of organic and agroecological production methods, a CSA in Swansea East could contribute to this goal by enhancing the natural environment and creating and enhancing natural ecosystems. A CSA could also form part of a wider Green infrastructure plan by utilising green space for food production yet maintaining biodiversity and therefore supporting wider ecosystem services.
- **4.7 Supporting Wider Enterprises:** By supporting the wider network of local sustainable producers a CSA in Swansea East can further the goal of a resilient Wales by supporting local producers who use similar techniques described in 4.11 thereby increasing the spread of its impact and influence.
- **4.8 Sustainable and Resilient Local Business:** The CSA model provides a sustainable and resilient model for a local social enterprise. As risks are shared across producer and membership this model is able to withstand change and uncertainty which may arise over changing weather patterns or general economic conditions.
- **4.10 Community Cohesion:** A CSA in Swansea East can contribute to this goal by providing a space for developing community cohesion and therefore social resilience and community wellbeing.
- **4.6 Education & Training & 4.4 Volunteering Opportunities:** A CSA in Swansea East could contribute to this wellbeing goal by increasing awareness of the importance of a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems through providing an education programme for learners of all ages and through the skills and knowledge gained through volunteering.

6.1.3 A Healthier Wales

A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

A CSA in Swansea East could contribute towards this wellbeing goal due to its positive impacts detailed in section 4:

- **4.1 Access to Quality Food:** A CSA in Swansea East could contribute to this goal through the benefits described above, through providing quality food and produce to its members.
- **4.3 Health and Wellbeing:** As discussed above a CSA in Swansea East could contribute to this goal by improving physical and mental wellbeing through providing opportunities for physical activity, provision of an inclusive community space and by providing access to a green space.
- **4.4 Volunteering Opportunities:** By providing volunteering opportunities a CSA in Swansea East can contribute to this goal by giving access to the wider community to some of the wellbeing benefits discussed above.

- **4.10 Community Cohesion:** By improving community cohesion a CSA in Swansea East can contribute to this wellbeing goal by offering its members and volunteers a sense of community and belonging which can help improve mental wellbeing by combating loneliness and not belonging as well as drawing people from different socio-economic groups together.

6.1.4 A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).

A CSA in Swansea East could contribute towards this wellbeing goal due to its positive impacts detailed in section 4:

- **4.4 Volunteering Opportunities:** By offering volunteering opportunities a CSA initiative in Swansea East would be able to contribute to developing skills and education for a range of socio-economic groups, whilst acting as a potential gateway to work for the unemployed.
- **4.5 Employment Opportunities:** By providing employment opportunities a CSA initiative can make a direct contribution to this goal.
- **4.6 Education & Training:** By providing education and training opportunities to people of all ages a CSA initiative can contribute to providing people with the skills they need to seek further employment, whether in agriculture or elsewhere.

6.1.5 A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, safe, viable and well-connected communities in Wales.

A CSA in Swansea East could contribute towards this wellbeing goal due to its positive impacts detailed in section 4:

- **4.10 Community Cohesion:** By improving community cohesion a CSA in Swansea East can contribute to this wellbeing goal by offering its members and volunteers a sense of community and belonging which can help improve mental wellbeing by combating loneliness and not belonging as well as drawing people from different socio-economic groups together.
- **4.7 Supporting Wider Enterprises:** By Supporting local enterprises a CSA initiative can contribute to a cohesive Wales by supporting local business's which put back into the local economy through the staff they employ and their own expenditure as well as building on the social capital provided by a CSA by connecting with the wider business community and offering a sense that small enterprises can work together to draw communities together.
- **4.8 Sustainable and Resilient Local Business & 4.9 Contributing to Local Economies:** By providing an enterprise which can provide long-term, employment, training and volunteering opportunities whilst contributing to the local economy. By providing a sustainable social enterprise a CSA can ensure that the benefits to the wider community are long term and resilient to changes in the economy and sources of funding.

6.1.6 A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

A CSA in Swansea East could contribute towards this wellbeing goal due to its positive impacts detailed in section 4:

- **4.2 Encouraging Sustainable Behaviour:** By encouraging sustainable behaviour a CSA in Swansea East can contribute to this goal by increasing awareness of wider social and environmental issues.
- **4.8 Sustainable and Resilient Local Business & 4.7 Supporting Wider Enterprises:** By supporting local business and operating a model that puts consumer in direct touch with producer, a CSA in Swansea East can ensure that supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable.
- **4.4 Volunteering Opportunities, 4.5 Employment Opportunities & 4.6 Education & Training:** By providing various opportunities for people to access the CSA and learn from it, a CSA in Swansea East can

contribute towards this wellbeing goal through the skills that people who access it develop and take out into the wider community.

6.2 Swansea Local Development Plan 2010-2025

To fulfil its duties under national legislation, the City and County of Swansea Council has prepared a Local Development Plan (LDP) for the period 2010 to 2025, in accordance with National Planning Policy and Guidance. The Plan provides a clear planning framework to address key issues facing the County, providing certainty and the basis for efficient planning decisions. Its policies and proposals will enable the delivery of sustainable development, and ensure that social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being goals are all suitably balanced in the decision-making process so that the right development occurs in the right place. Given the benefits, described in section 4 that a CSA can bring to its local area and its strategic fit within the WBFGA, a CSA located in Swansea East fits in with this local development strategy.

Within the LDP land use planning has been fully integrated whilst considering wider holistic considerations, such as sustainable management of natural resources. Given the benefits and assets described above in reference to effective land management a CSA in Swansea East has a clear fit within this LDP.

The Swansea LDP is designed to fit within existing national policies. Of particular note is Planning Policy Wales which defines the national land use and planning policies of the Welsh Government. This policy is considered throughout the LDP in order to ensure the development and use of land is in the public interest and contributes to the achievement of well-being and sustainable development. This aspect of the LDP is important whilst developing a CSA in Swansea East as a result of the fact that a CSA can have an active and positive contribution to achieving these goals so should therefore be considered appropriate under planning policy.

As part of the plan strategy Swansea Council supports an extensive green space network, which it deems as being vital to economic, environmental and community well-being. Further to this within the plan it states that further green infrastructure developments are required to meet national guidance and local requirements for improving accessibility to open space. Also, as part of its plan strategy it states that a sustainable growth policy is not about exhausting all available land within the urban area for development, but also providing green space that should be protected and enhanced for local amenity and biodiversity. The implications of this are that a CSA which once established can effectively sustain itself whilst providing the benefits of green space to the local community and therefore should be viewed by the council as a favourable development under its own strategy. This may help a CSA looking to become established in Swansea East in terms of support in accessing land and any potential planning applications.

The LDP highlights the unique relationship Swansea has between its rural and urban areas, which make it an attractive place to live work and visit. This leads to a beneficial impact on the local economy through increased tourism, enhanced appeal for inward investment and job creation. Further to this the LDP actively encourages contact with nature in order to improve health and wellbeing. As a result of this the LDP actively encourages development which offers free or low-cost opportunities for recreation and getting away from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Further to this the LDP states:

“The network of open spaces and green areas (Green Infrastructure) within the County improves the amenity value for, and quality of life of, residents and encourages community interest and cohesion. The extent and quality of this network will be safeguarded and enhanced where appropriate, including requiring appropriate provision of open space to be an integral part of master planning new developments.”

Given that a CSA in Swansea East could provide these benefits to its members, volunteers and wider community it should be supported within the framework of the Swansea Council LDP.

A key feature of the Swansea LDP is the focus on placemaking. This is the idea of using holistic planning to create and manage places that seek to ensure social inclusion, equality of opportunity and access for all. This overarching theme of the LDP includes all aspects of development including the physical environment, land use and transportation. Within this the principle of access for all covers all elements of society and is applicable to all developments in all

locations. By its very nature CSA initiatives are placemaking enterprises which encompass the points above regarding access, social inclusion and equality of opportunity.

Furthermore, the Swansea LDP goes on to raise the importance of placemaking as a cornerstone of the national planning agenda in Wales and the sustainable development goal which underpin it. Therefore, the LDP is committed to a holistic approach to place making and place management that should be applied in all areas and at a range of different scales. This should be done in order to create a sustainable legacy in accordance with WBFGA. This further raises the case for a CSA in Swansea East in line with Swansea Council's LDP.

Within the Swansea LDP there are a number of Sustainable Development areas which are earmarked for residential development within the coming years. Within their plans it is stated that there is a need to create a multi-functional green infrastructure network throughout the site, which takes into account the need to create healthy communities, with a particular interest in integrating landscape features, protecting biodiversity, habitat creation and native provenance tree planting, and supporting a range of opportunities for formal and informal play and **community led food growing**. A CSA initiative is perfectly placed to fulfil the role of sustainable community led food production whilst also being able to act as a steward of the green spaces in its locality by promoting the other benefits of local green spaces and acting as a potential hub for wider activities seeking to foster better greenspaces and biodiversity such as tree planting events. Please see Appendix A for site specific maps of sustainable Development Areas in Swansea East.

6.3 Natural Resources Wales Area Statements

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have produced a set of area statements which cover each area in Wales and outlines what challenges are facing each area, what can be done to meet those challenges and how natural resources can be better managed for future generations.

Swansea East falls within the South-west Wales area which is a large and diverse area from Neath-Port Talbot right out to the Pembrokeshire coast. As part of the South West Wales Area Statement, CSA initiatives are directly recommended as a means by which sustainable land management can be ensure for future generations in this area. This is due to the effective land management techniques used by most CSA initiatives and the knock-on effects on local biodiversity described previously in this report. Further to this the benefits to wellbeing of local communities are also discussed in the NRW area statement and lists Swansea as an area of high potential for CSA initiatives to thrive.

7. CSA Survey Analysis

The purpose of this survey was to act as a public consultation to establish whether there is demand for a CSA initiative in Swansea East or the wider Swansea urban area. As well as seeking to establish demand the survey also sought to act as a consultation about how much people would be prepared to pay for a weekly box, whether they would travel for collection and other questions surrounding what local people would want out of such an initiative.

The survey was created using Google Forms which allowed the survey to be easily accessed by anyone and used a simple format to ensure accessibility to anyone able to access via a computer. The survey was promoted and shared via social media across Swansea by Swansea Council's Local Area Coordinators which ensured it had a fair representation across the city. Please see appendix B for the full survey and results.

The survey also requested email addresses for those who would like to potentially subscribe to a CSA in Swansea. This mailing list, currently has 97 subscribers.

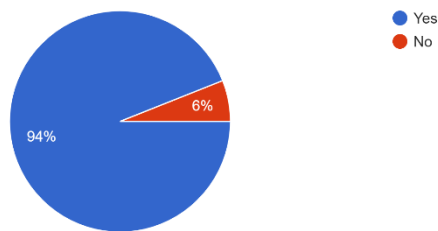
7.1 Establishing Demand for a CSA initiative in Swansea

The survey sought to establish demand for a CSA by asking whether local people would consider joining a weekly, local veg box scheme. Of the 183 respondents to this question 94% (172) said they would consider joining such a

scheme where as 6% (11) stated they would not consider joining such a scheme.

Would you consider joining a weekly, local veg box scheme?

183 responses

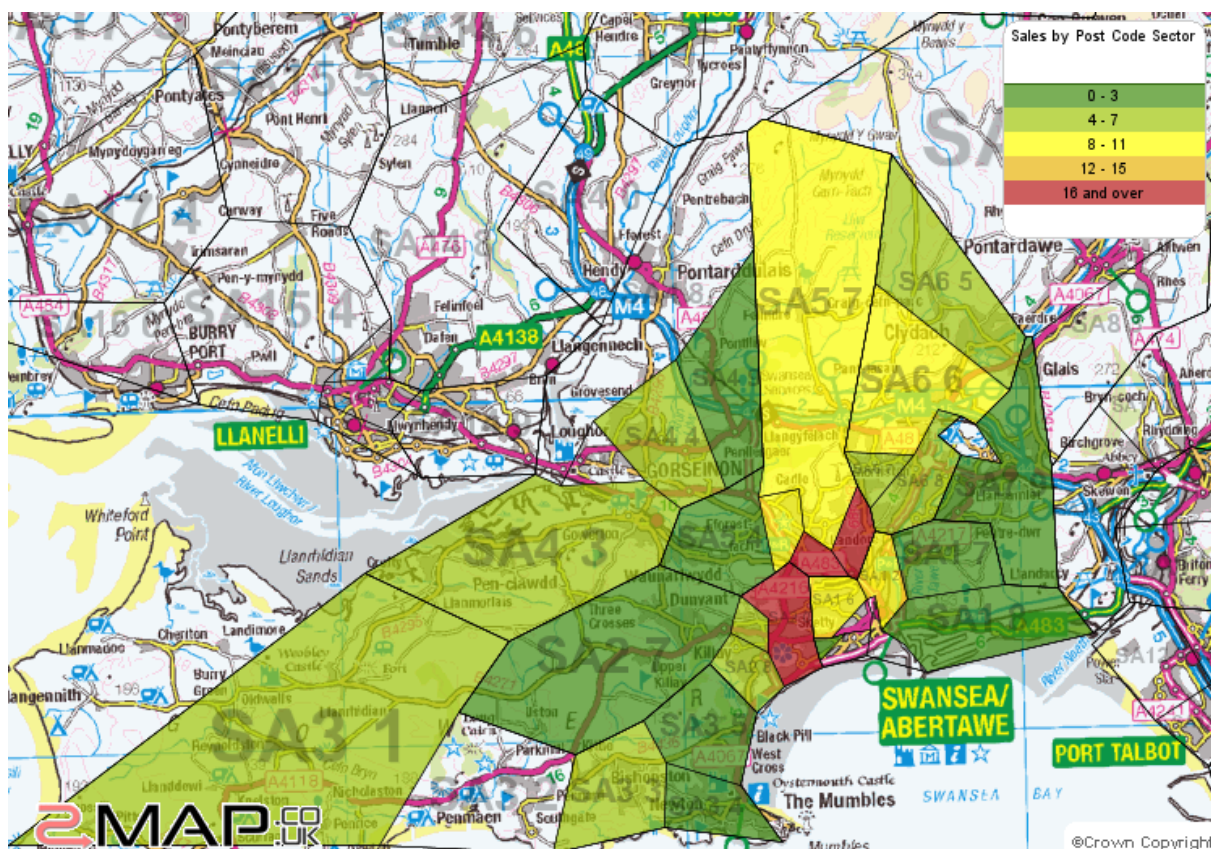


This establishes that a high number of people would at least consider being part of such a scheme. This shows that there is sufficient support for a CSA which can support the WBFGA goals detailed in section 5.1.

7.2 Demand Across the City

The first question on the Survey asked for a full postcode. This was done in order to filter those in favour of such an initiative and map that across the city. This was done in order to establish where demand was concentrated and where either a growing site or collection point would best be established. The survey allowed people to opt out of entering their postcode, therefore the heat map below shows the spread of people who would consider subscribing to such a scheme who were happy to leave their postcode. The areas are divided by postcode sector, with the number of positive responses indicated by the shaded colour.

The map shows that demand is focused primarily in the city centre and north Swansea. However, there is a reasonable spread of demand across the whole city.

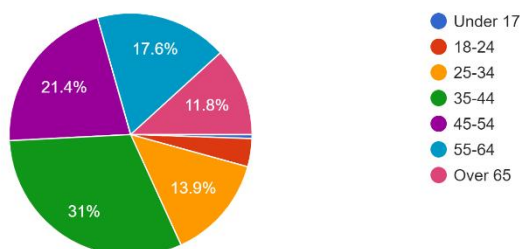


7.3 Age Group

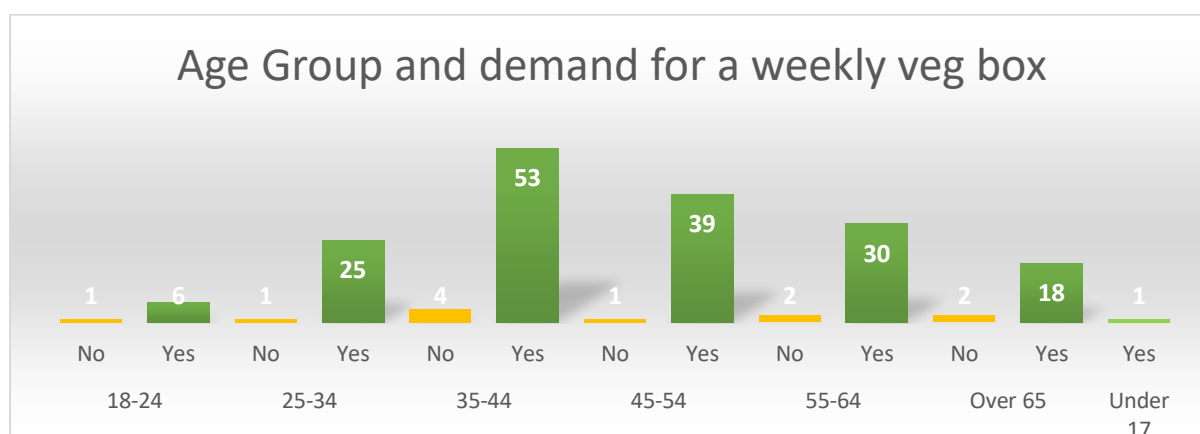
The survey asked for respondents age group to establish what different age groups may be interested in such an initiative. The responses to the survey had a varied age range with the most represented being 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64.

What is your age group?

187 responses



Further to this it was possible to correlate age group with positives responses to the question regarding whether they would consider subscribing to a weekly local veg box scheme. The results show that demand is focused in the 35-44 age group, however this is to be expected as they were the largest group of respondents to the survey and the responses to the intital question being overwhelmingly positive. It is also worth noting that a reasonable spread across age groups gives this initiative an opportunity to break down barriers between age groups and aid community cohesion.

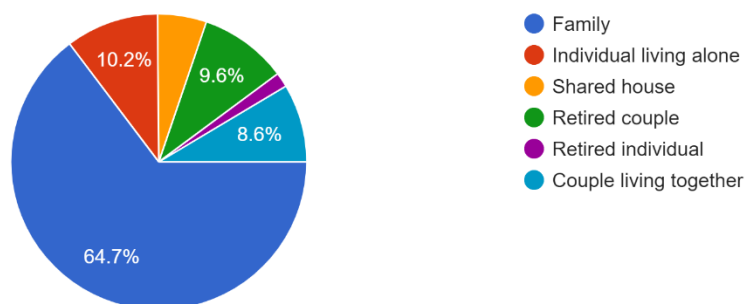


7.4 Household

A majority of the respondents consider their household to be a family. This indicates that there is a strong demand from families, implying that this would provide a regular and sustainable market for subscriptions to a veg box scheme. This information could also prove useful when deciding on share options in that it gives an indication of the sizes of shares required (full or half) and also what kind of community activities would be appropriate for this initiative.

Which of these best describes your household?

187 responses

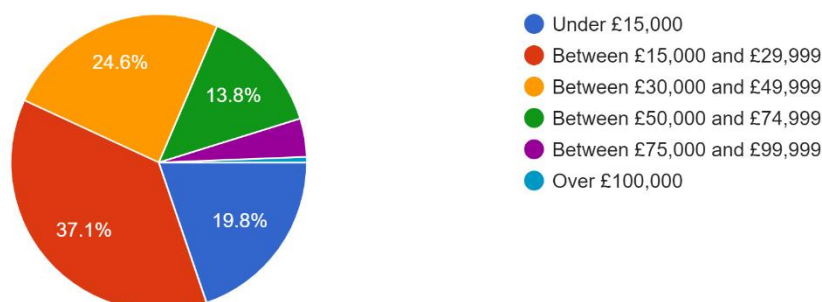


7.5 Household income

This was asked in order to establish the demand from different income groups across the city. This will help with establishing a pricing scale which is affordable to those wishing to join such an initiative. Given that there is a varied income range within the respondents shows that a CSA can contribute to WBFGA goal of a More Equal Wales by showing that people from a range of backgrounds and incomes would join such a scheme in Swansea rather than one income group being over represented.

What is your rough annual household income? (optional)

167 responses

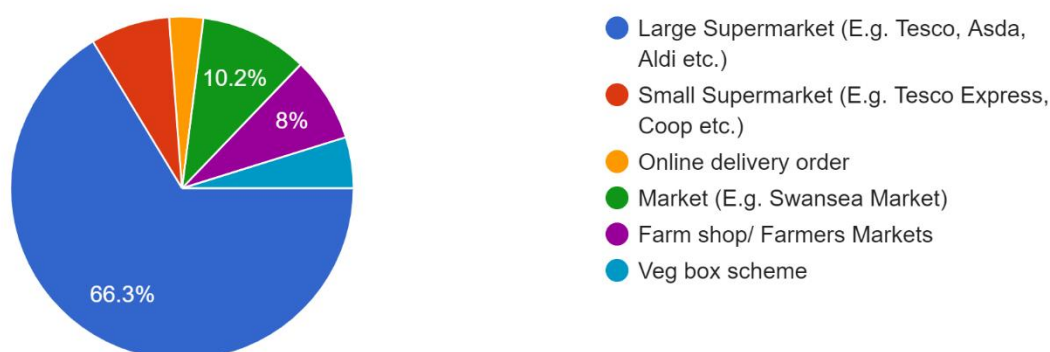


7.6 Shopping Habits

The survey found that a majority of respondents currently conduct their shopping in a large supermarket. Given the overwhelming response to whether they would consider joining a weekly veg box scheme this shows that there is a large appetite for a change in shopping habits. There could be a number of reasons for this which could be as a result of the shortages of some products in supermarkets at the beginning of the pandemic or an increased awareness of the benefits of a local food network as well as people becoming conscious of the nutritional benefits of their food and how this can be related to where and how it is produced.

Where do you buy most of your fresh vegetables?

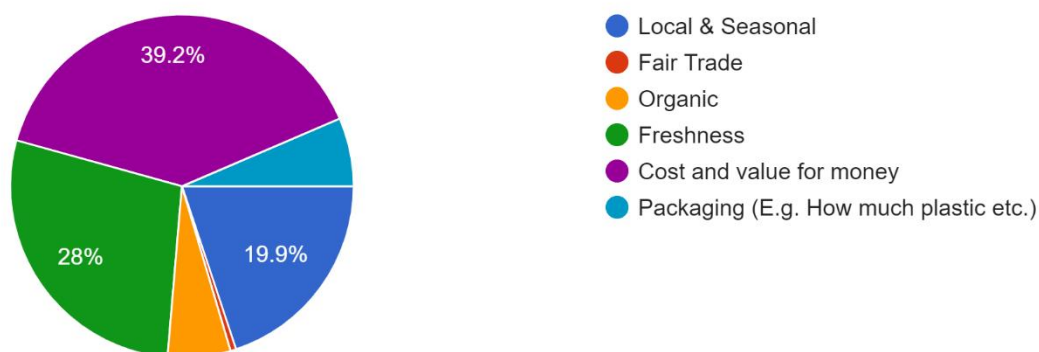
187 responses



When asked about what people prioritised when shopping for vegetables a majority of respondents prioritise cost and value for money as the primary consideration when shopping for vegetables, followed by freshness, and then locality and season. Given that the pricing used by Cae Tan and Big Meadow CSA's fall within what most respondents consider value for money (see further analysis below) this shows that a CSA can cater for most people's top priorities by providing local seasonal veg which is direct from the field on a weekly basis and therefore about as fresh as it comes whilst also remaining cost effective for most people. This shows that there is an appetite amongst respondents to take advantage of the benefit of access to quality food detailed in section 4.1.

When shopping for your veg, what do you prioritise most?

186 responses

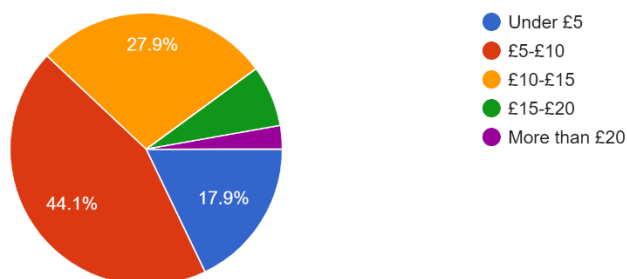


7.7 Cost and Value for Money

The survey also looked to establish what people would consider paying for a share. The results show that most respondents to the survey would be happy to pay similar prices for shares to what are currently being charged by Cae Tan and Big Meadow CSA's. This establishes that, based on the responses to the survey, any CSA initiative would have access to one aspect of the financial capital (section 3.5) asset through regular subscription which a majority of respondents would consider good value for money.

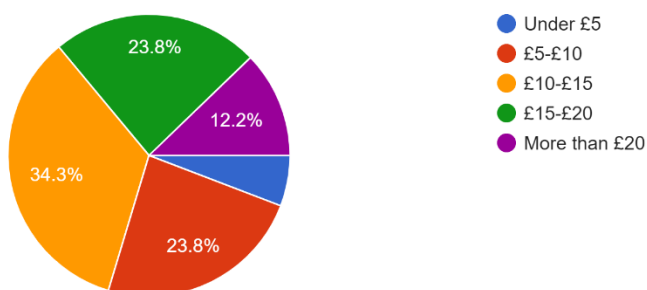
How much would you be willing to pay for a veg box that would supply all the veg for an individual or 2 person household?

179 responses



How much would you be prepared to pay for a weekly veg box that would supply all the vegetables for a family of 4?

172 responses

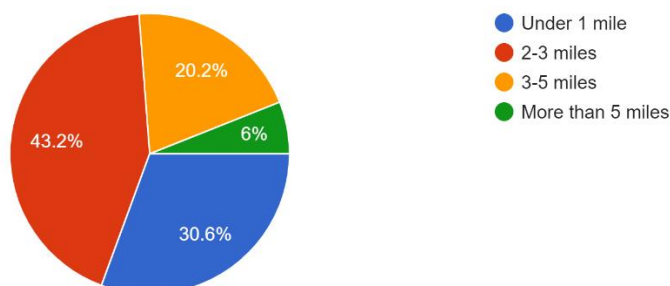


7.8 Travel

The survey also sought to establish the distance people may be prepared to travel to collect a veg box. This is important in a densely populated urban area as it establishes the idea that whilst a CSA would have direct benefits for the area in which it is established, it would also have benefits for the wider city. It also establishes that the potential market for a CSA in Swansea could be city wide therefore opening up demand that may not be accessible to a more rural CSA project.

How far would you be willing to travel to collect your veg box?

183 responses

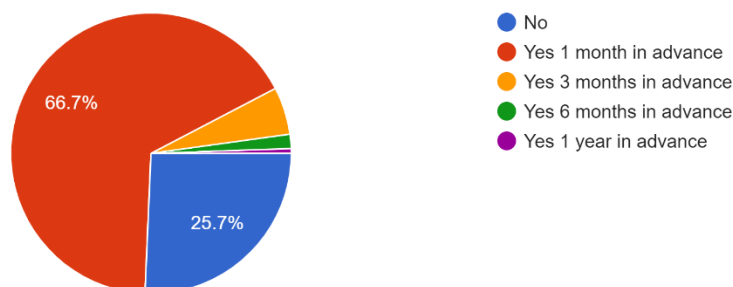


7.9 Subscriptions

The survey also established that amongst the respondents there is sufficient demand for a subscription to a veg box scheme with most respondents willing to pay 1 month in advance. This shows that there is a willingness to pay in advance for a subscription and therefore contributes to the element of financial capital detailed in section 3.5.

Would you be prepared to pay in advance as a subscription for your veg box?

183 responses

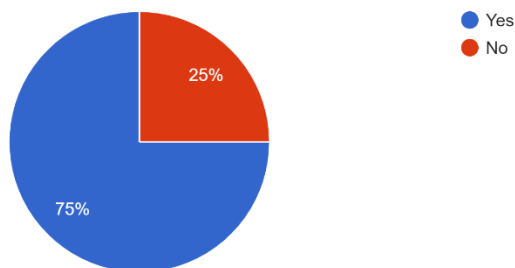


7.10 Volunteering

The survey was also able to establish that there is a demand for volunteering opportunities on such a project. This is relevant to the success of any future CSA as it shows that there is sufficient interest in volunteering and therefore providing the human capital asset described in 3.1 and also shows that those surveyed would be prepared to take advantage of the benefits of volunteering opportunities described in section 4.4 as well as the benefits which a CSA initiative can provide in terms of education and training detailed in section 4.6. This also shows that by providing volunteer services which people wish to take up and become involved in falls in line with WBFGA goal of a Prosperous Wales described in section 5.1.1. Also, by providing education and training this aligns with the WBFGA goal of a Resilient Wales described in section 5.1.2.

Would you be interested in getting involved with how your food is produced through volunteering in the community garden?

184 responses



8. Access to Land

Access to land is one of the main issues crucial to the development of a successful CSA initiative in Swansea East/ Urban area. This study aimed to look at the different methods of accessing land both public and private in order to present a range of options for the development of a CSA initiative.

- Initial contact was made with Swansea Council Estates Team. A majority of the land they deal with is considered development land therefore not appropriate for a CSA project. However, they were able to put me onto the waiting list to lease council owned grazing land. Whilst I had the support of Councillors Paul Lloyd and Mary Sherwood it proved difficult to get in touch with the correct department that could help with accessing publicly owned land across the city. A more strategic approach could be pursued after the publication of this report to ensure that the correct team and staff within the council are reached.

- POBL Housing Association were consulted regarding the redevelopment of Penderry. This is a joint redevelopment between Swansea Council and Pobl with a focus on green infrastructure and landscaping (See Appendix C). POBL have expressed interest in a CSA initiative being part of this redevelopment plan and provided potential sites. Whilst promising, this will require a strategic approach to ensure that a CSA initiative is included in the plans from an early stage. Pobl have conducted their own community consultation into what local people want out of the development of their area and there is strong support for community led initiatives which give people opportunities for outdoor recreation and activities. This is a strong argument for a CSA initiative as it provides these opportunities as well as falling in line with a landscaping and green infrastructure approach. (Pobl survey results available on request). Please follow the link for a map showing current green spaces which could be utilised for a CSA project as part of the redevelopment of the Penderry area:
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1PGKxu9sO1V9BkjzhZrvGETQP8QZJQEt&ll=51.6553139435916%2C-3.9824263500000123&z=16>
- 3 Smaller sites have been identified that could provide an inner-city community garden however would not have the capacity to support production for a CSA initiative. These sites are located in Clase and Bon y Maen. As there is sufficient land available on Gower, which is immediately accessible for production, this has given rise to the idea of utilising smaller pockets of available land in the city to act as a collection point and outreach centre for a CSA which has most of its production located on Gower on land that has been traditionally utilised for agriculture. (See appendix D for site photos). The site in Bon-y-Maen is in the grounds of a small church which is currently being used as a food bank access point. It has previously been used as a small community garden and has some raised beds already in place. The site in Clase is the former kitchen garden of a vicarage located in the grounds of a recently redeveloped church. This site benefits from having access to a large classroom space in the main church building and a commercial kitchen for providing opportunities for cooking produce and cooking classes.
- Following on from an article published on Wales Online regarding the project, I was put in touch with a local landowner on Kilvey Hill. Whilst there was a large amount of land available in a particularly central and visible location, a majority of it was of poor quality for growing, however some small parts of the land could provide a site for a smaller community growing project. Please see appendix E for the site visit report provided by Tom O'kane.
- After discussing access to land for this initiative with Neil Barry (local horticulture expert) he was able to put me in touch with Linda Frame who sits on Mawr Community council. Mawr community council covers 3 wards in North Swansea; Craig-Cefn Park, Garnswllt and Felindre. These areas are predominantly rural with small communities. There are 2 sites which are immediately accessible for a CSA initiative. In Garnswllt a large portion of a relatively disused playing field is available. This site has a lot of potential to be developed into a CSA however due to its rural location it is only likely to be accessible to people in that area and therefore may not fall within the remit of this study. Please see appendix E for a site report provided by Tom O'kane. A second site was also identified in Craig-cefn Parc which is located on the edge of Clydach giving access to a larger community. The site is parkland which has been established over an old refuse dump. This means that the soil is of poor quality and a system such as raised beds would have to be used to effectively utilise this site. Please see Appendix E for the site report provided by Tom O'kane. Linda Frame has requested that myself and Tom make a presentation to the rest of the community council to explain and promote CSA as an effective way to utilise this land.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Summary

- The study highlighted that CSA yields a range of positive impacts that give it a strategic fit within the WBFGA and, therefore, the wellbeing and sustainability policies of any public body operating in Wales.
- Public bodies could work in partnership with a CSA project to fulfil a range of obligations as laid out in the act.

- The survey results demonstrated that there is a high level of demand across the city for subscriptions to a CSA.
- The survey also showed that there is a high level of demand for volunteering opportunities in such a project.
- In Swansea there is an existing and growing network of community-based agriculture projects happening in and around the city, represented, in most cases by Swansea Community growing network. This creates a context for a new project which can draw on the social capital provided by the existing network.
- Accessing land remains the fundamental barrier to establishing a CSA initiative in the city. Whilst contact with private landowners and public bodies has been made, no suitable site has yet been located.

9.2 Conclusion

This report was conducted in order to investigate the feasibility of setting up a CSA initiative in Swansea East or the wider Swansea urban area. The initial research was focused on Swansea East, however throughout the research and whilst talking to members of the community it was established that the term Swansea East has different connotations amongst different members of the community as well as being felt by some to be an arbitrary marker that exclude different communities from the consultation.

Sections 1-5 of the report is a review of past research into CSA initiatives in the UK. This was conducted in order to form a foundation for any future proposal in Swansea in terms of investigating the CSA model and its benefits and how that relates to current national and local policy. The findings of this review indicate that CSA is an already established model used widely across the UK with many direct and indirect benefits to the local economy, environment and community. It has been established in the report that as a result of the benefits brought by the CSA model have a clear strategic fit with the WBFGA as well as Swansea Council's sustainability policy and NRW's area statements. This receptive policy environment creates a key opportunity to work with the local council and wider national bodies to establish such an initiative and also source funding. Any initiative in partnership with Swansea Council would help to act towards their overall well-being and sustainability goals.

Section 6 is an analysis of an online survey conducted to establish demand for the initiative. The findings clearly indicate that there is strong demand for such an initiative in the city. The results indicate that benefits could be experienced by the wider community in Swansea rather than just the community where it could potentially be based. Further to this the survey was able to establish that the community needs, with regards to accessing local fresh food, having a community space and volunteering opportunities could be fulfilled by a CSA initiative set up in Swansea. It was also able to provide a clear indication of what respondents would be willing to pay for a share and that they would be happy to subscribe at least one week in advance for shares. This implies that start up capital would need to be raised to meet initial costs but once the initiative was up and running there would be sufficient demand to ensure the ongoing viability of the initiative.

Section 7 investigated the issues around accessing land in the city. As discussed previously the policy environment creates an opportunity to work in partnership with the council. This could be of great benefit in terms of accessing land. Whilst the projection received a positive reception from all who were contacted in the council, no potential sites were forthcoming other than being placed on the waiting list for council owned grazing land. As an individual it has been difficult to find the correct team or people to speak to within the council and could benefit from a more strategic approach, which could come through existing channels of communication between NRW and Swansea Council.

A number of other potential ways of accessing land were looked at. The redevelopment plan of Penderry being conducted by Swansea Council and Pobl provides a brilliant opportunity to establish a CSA as part of their green infrastructure and community development plan. POBL have been particularly receptive of the idea and as the plan is in its early days presents a brilliant opportunity to establish a CSA as a key part of their development plan.

Mawr Community Council proposed two sites which could be utilised to establish a CSA. Whilst this area is in a rural setting and does not quite fit the remit of this report, these sites are still worth considering for a different project which could establish a CSA to service the needs of the Ammanford area.

The 2 smaller sites and the site on Kilvey Hill provide access to small amounts of land perfectly positioned to serve different communities in Swansea. The availability of these smaller sites in the city and the availability of agricultural land on Gower has given rise to the idea of having a primary production area based on agricultural land close to city and a number of smaller gardens which could be utilised as collection points, education centres and creating volunteering opportunities local to people in the city. This could be a solution to a lack of good agricultural land in the city and provide much larger opportunities for the CSA share offering to grow if the project gains large public support and demand increases.

9.3 Recommendations

A number of possible actions and recommendations have arisen, as a result of the findings of this study, which could be utilised to move the project forward beyond a feasibility study into stabling an active CSA initiative in the city.

- Whilst the survey showed that there is strong demand amongst respondents across the city it would raise the profile of the project to create an identity for it. This could be achieved by establishing a committee to drive the project and also creating social media accounts and potentially a website where potential members and other interested parties could go to access information and updates on the initiative. For this to be effective, particularly social media, regular updates will be required to maintain interest in the project and should only be established once the initiative is in a position to provide this.
- As discussed, this initiative provides a brilliant opportunity to partner with Swansea Council to create a project in line with its own sustainability goals and the WBFGA. It would be worth approaching the council at a strategic level in order to add some weight behind the proposal and work towards accessing land via the council.
- The opportunity to work with Pobl and Swansea Council as part of their regeneration of Penderry is a key opportunity to be part of an overall planning process to improve one of Swansea's most deprived areas. A well planned and inclusive CSA in this area could bring great benefits to the local community and the wider Swansea Community. Whilst there is no land immediately available a number of potential sites have been suggested and it would be important to pursue this initiative with them during the planning stage to ensure its inclusion.
- Having immediate access to some smaller sites in the city as well as access to agricultural land on Gower suggests that the idea of having a larger production area outside the city with smaller gardens could be a solution to the difficulties around accessing land in the city. Further investigation would be required to establish the logistics of running a CSA initiative across a number of sites in terms of staffing and transportation costs. However, this option provides a model that can access many different communities rather than being focused all on one site, as well as providing the opportunity for people to access a site out the city and a more diverse range of volunteering opportunities.

9.4 Next Steps

- Continue to promote project and make further contacts.
- Continue the search for an appropriate site in Swansea to establish a CSA.
- Consider what funding is available to set up and establish a project once a site has been found
- Continue to engage the general public, following from the positive public engagement created by the community consultation survey

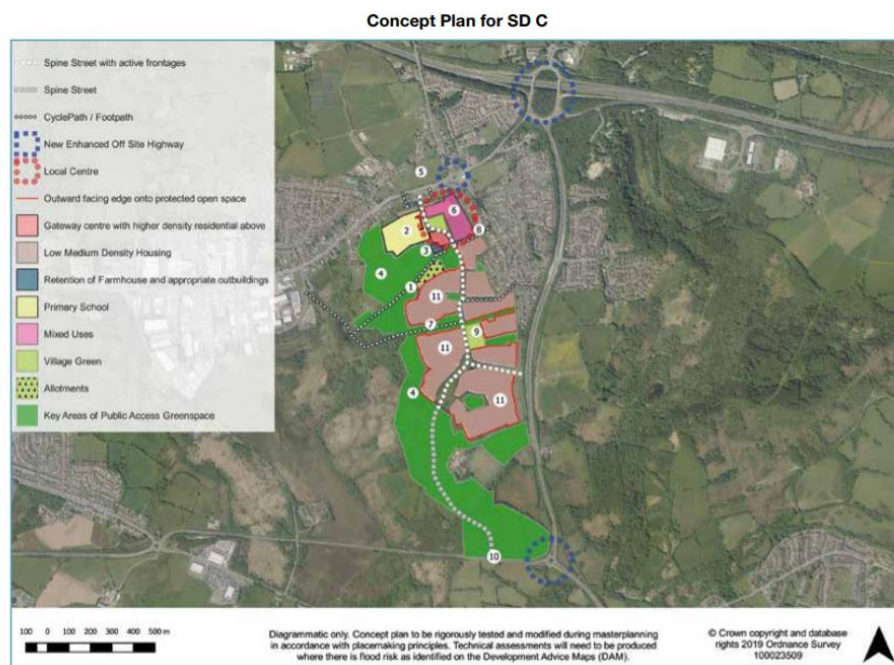
9.4 Action Plan

- Promote project
 - Create 2 page simple summary document detailing the key points of the report which can be easily understood and disseminated to a wider audience
 - Continue to raise profile of project through presentations to bodies such as NRW and Swansea PSB.
 - Continue to develop contacts and relationships within Swansea Council.
 - Make contact with other public sector organisations, such as the DVLA and the local Health board, who may wish to be involved in the project.
 - Form a working group in order to develop and promote the project.

- Access to land
 - Continue discussions with Swansea Council regarding access to public land.
 - Engage other public sector organisation in discussion on land availability.
 - Get out and about and on Google Earth to identify potential pockets of suitable land that could become home to a CSA. Identify and contact landowners.
- Funding
 - Draw up a budget for both planning and start-up costs for an urban CSA.
 - Research and follow up potential funding sources.
- Public engagement
 - Make contact with survey participants who wished to receive updates in order to update and keep them engaged with the project.
 - Create and manage social media accounts to represent the project and increase local and public support.

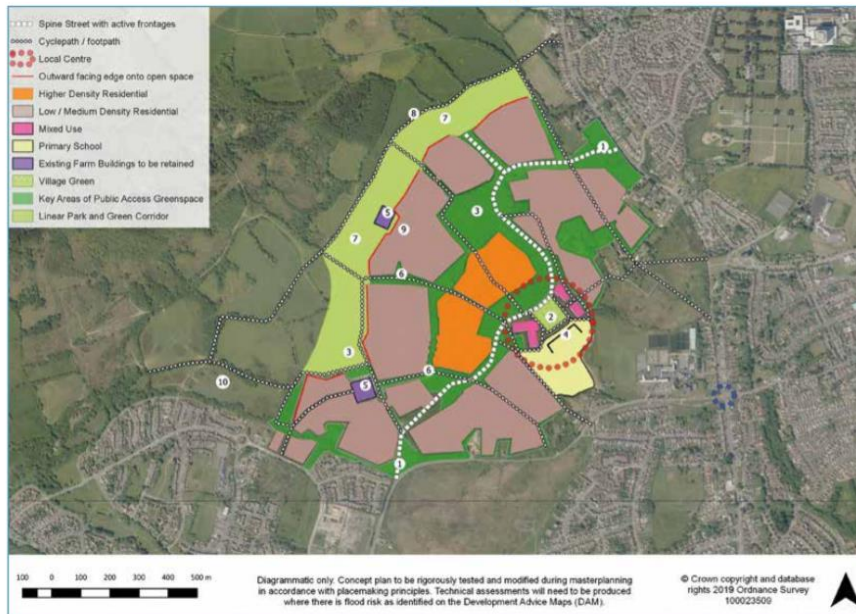
Appendix A: Swansea SDA's

SD C: South of A4240 Parc Mawr Penllergaer



SD D: West of Llangyfelach Road, Penderry

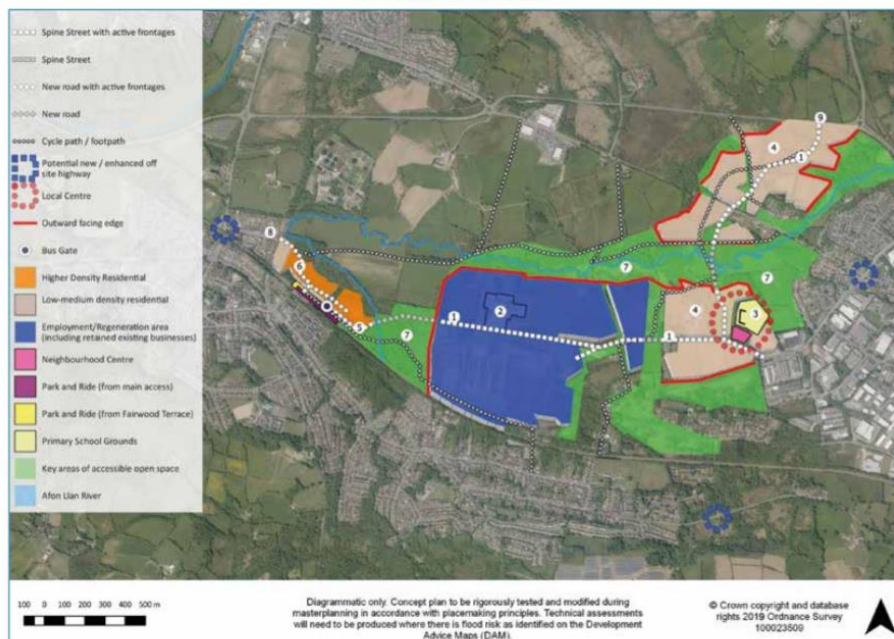
Concept Plan for SD D



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - New spine street 2 - New local centre uses to include commercial uses with residential above 3 - New sports pitches and associated facilities in central locations 4 - New primary school close to local centre to create 'heart' to the new place 5 - Positive elements of historic farm buildings retained as focal points 6 - Strong structure of green corridors following historic field boundaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 - Linear park / multi-functioning open space 8 - Penplas Lane retained and enhanced as pedestrian / cycle route 9 - Low density and greening on edges to respond to key view from Penllergaer Historic Park & Garden 10 - Ecological mitigation area |
|---|---|

SD H: North of Waunarlwydd/Fforestfach

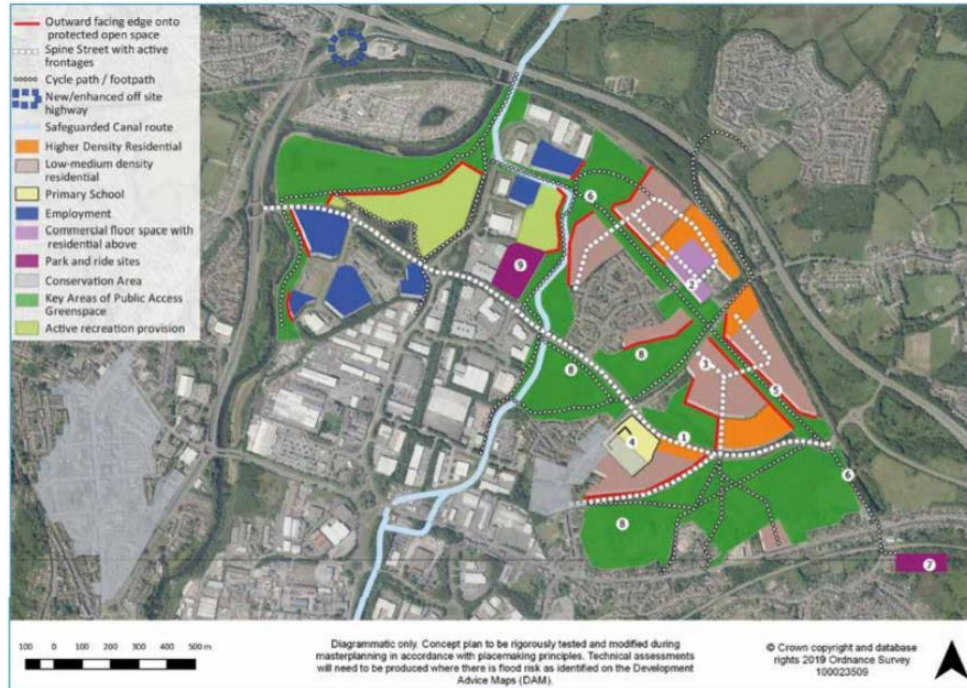
Concept Plan for SD H



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Spine Streets 2 - Retained existing businesses 3 - New school to serve existing and new communities 4 - New park and pitches to serve new communities and to help address local deficiencies within development area at location to be confirmed 5 - Main access for new park and ride at Cowerton Rail Station plus new walking and cycling routes to station | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 - Limited access to new park and ride site and no through route to wider site. 7 - Key areas of accessible open space 8 - Junction improvements at Fairwood Terrace / Victoria Road 9 - Exact location of northern access point to be confirmed |
|--|--|

SD I: Swansea Vale

Concept Plan for SD I

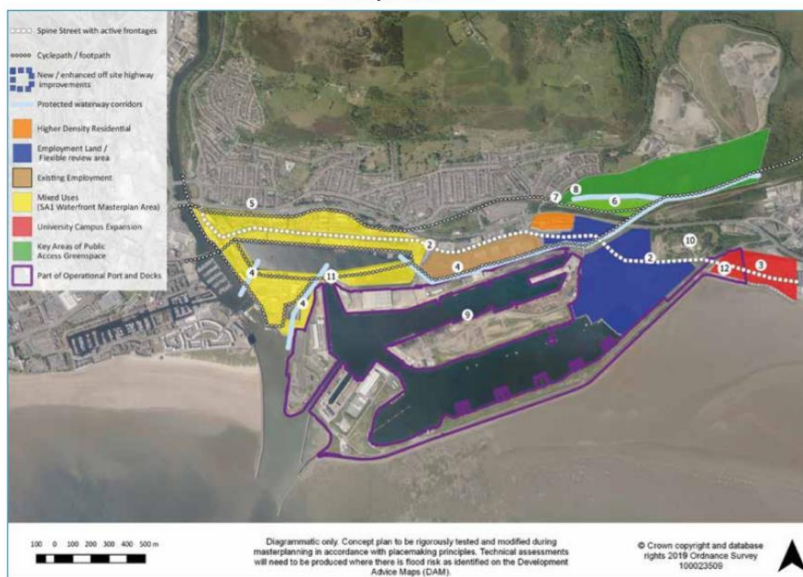


- 1 - Blawd Road becomes a spine street
- 2 - New local centre adjacent to community centre / Swansea Vale Resource Centre
- 3 - New park and sports pitches in central locations
- 4 - Existing Lon Las school with public access to pitches
- 5 - Strong structure of green corridors
- 6 - New pedestrian and cycle route to Llansamlet Rail Station

- 7 - New 300-500 space park and ride at Llansamlet Rail Station
- 8 - Area to be kept free of development and managed as nature reserve
- 9 - Park and Ride Bus

SD K: Fabian Way

Concept Plan for SD K

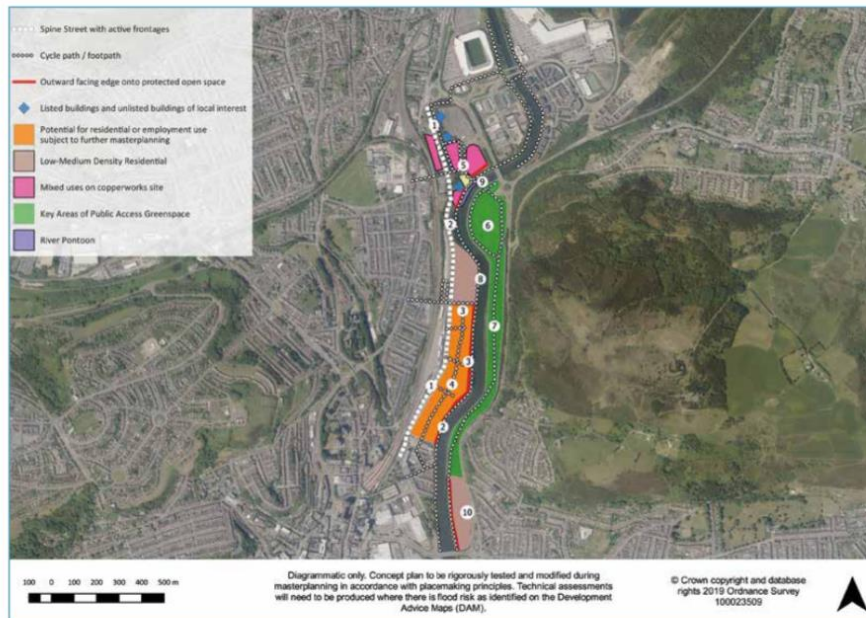


- 1 - Swansea University Bay Campus
- 2 - Spine street links Langdon Road to Bay Campus in Neath Port Talbot
- 3 - Land for expansion of Bay Campus
- 4 - Port Tennant Canal and links between Prince of Wales Dock / River Tawe safeguarded
- 5 - Improved north south crossings on Fabian Way
- 6 - Sports and pitch improvement at Ashlands

- 7 - New pedestrian and cycle routes
- 8 - Potential canal basin
- 9 - Existing operational docks
- 10 - Existing waste water treatment works
- 11 - Potential vehicular traffic link over the entrance to Prince of Wales dock
- 12 - Area subject to review depending on changes to flood risk and University expansion proposals

SD L: Tawe riverside and Hafod Morfa Copperworks

Concept Plan for SD L



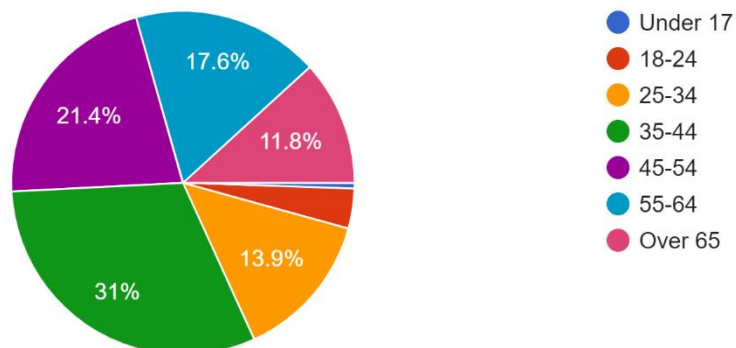
- 1 - Morfa Road becomes a spine street
- 2 - River path / cycle route along west bank
- 3 - Cross pedestrian / cycle routes between river and Morfa Road
- 4 - Potential higher density riverside developments
- 5 - Hafod / Morfa copperworks as a heritage-led mixed use destination
- 6 - Enhancement of White Rock as heritage park

- 7 - Improved public access to east bank
- 8 - Potential river bus service
- 9 - Potential bridge linking Hafod / Morfa
- 10 - Development of the St Thomas Waterfront site to provide community links to the River Tawe and gateway to city centre

Appendix B: Full survey and results

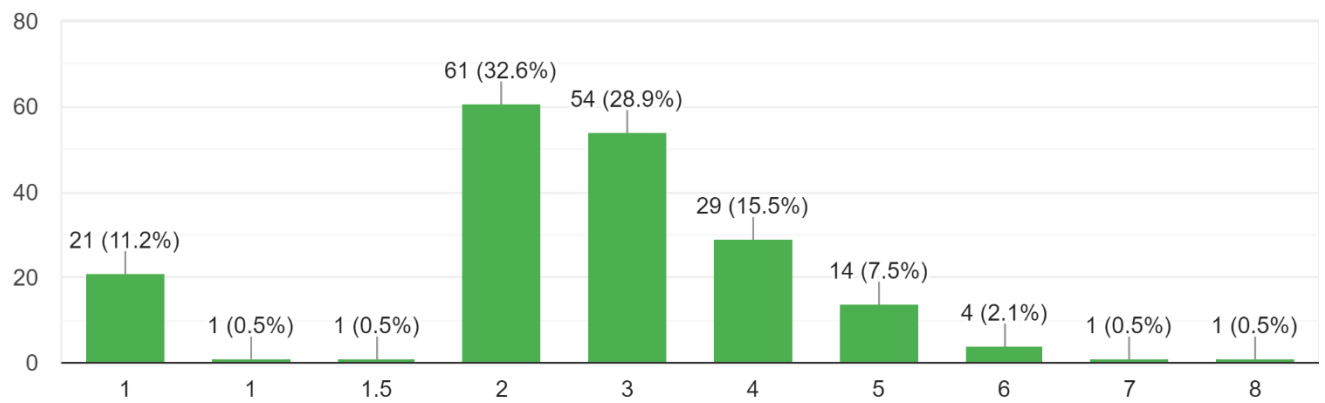
What is your age group?

187 responses



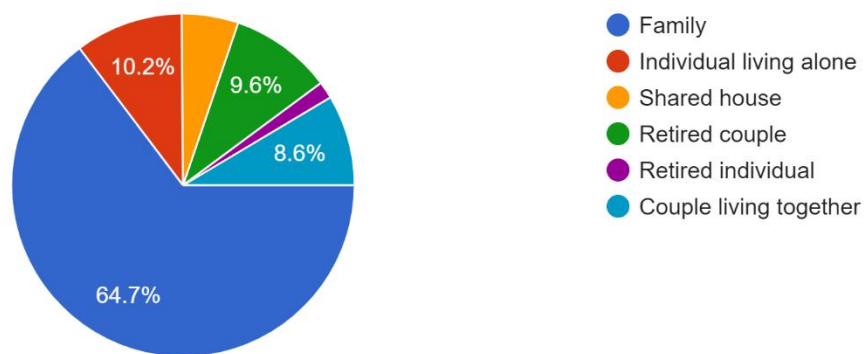
How many people live in your household?

187 responses



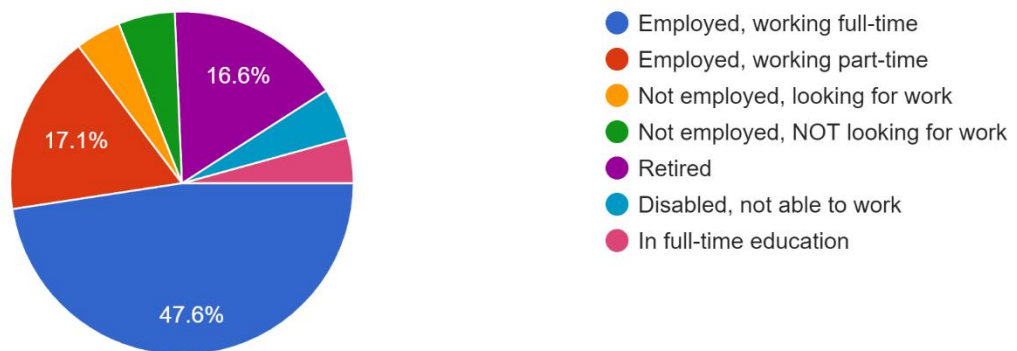
Which of these best describes your household?

187 responses



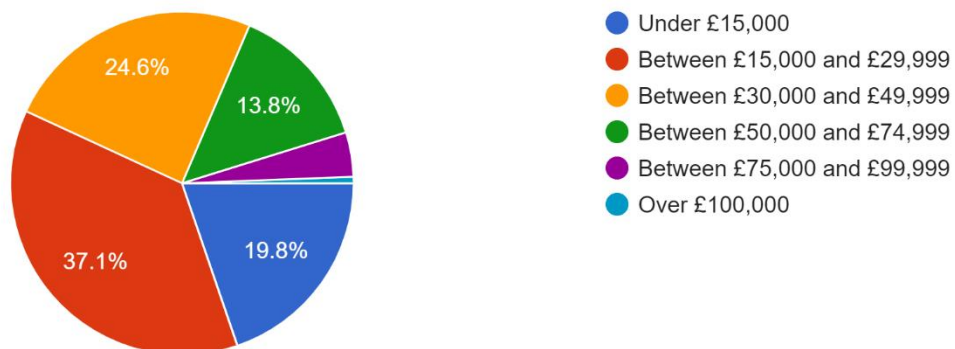
Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?

187 responses



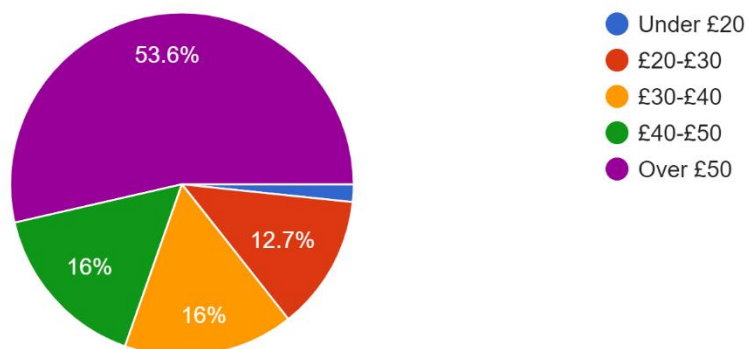
What is your rough annual household income? (optional)

167 responses



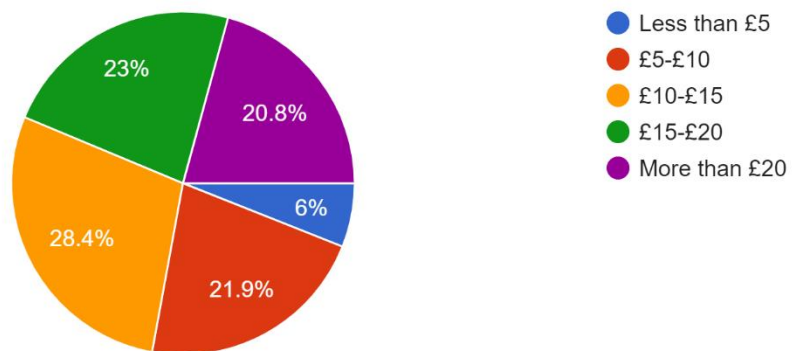
How much do you estimate you spend on food on an average week?

181 responses



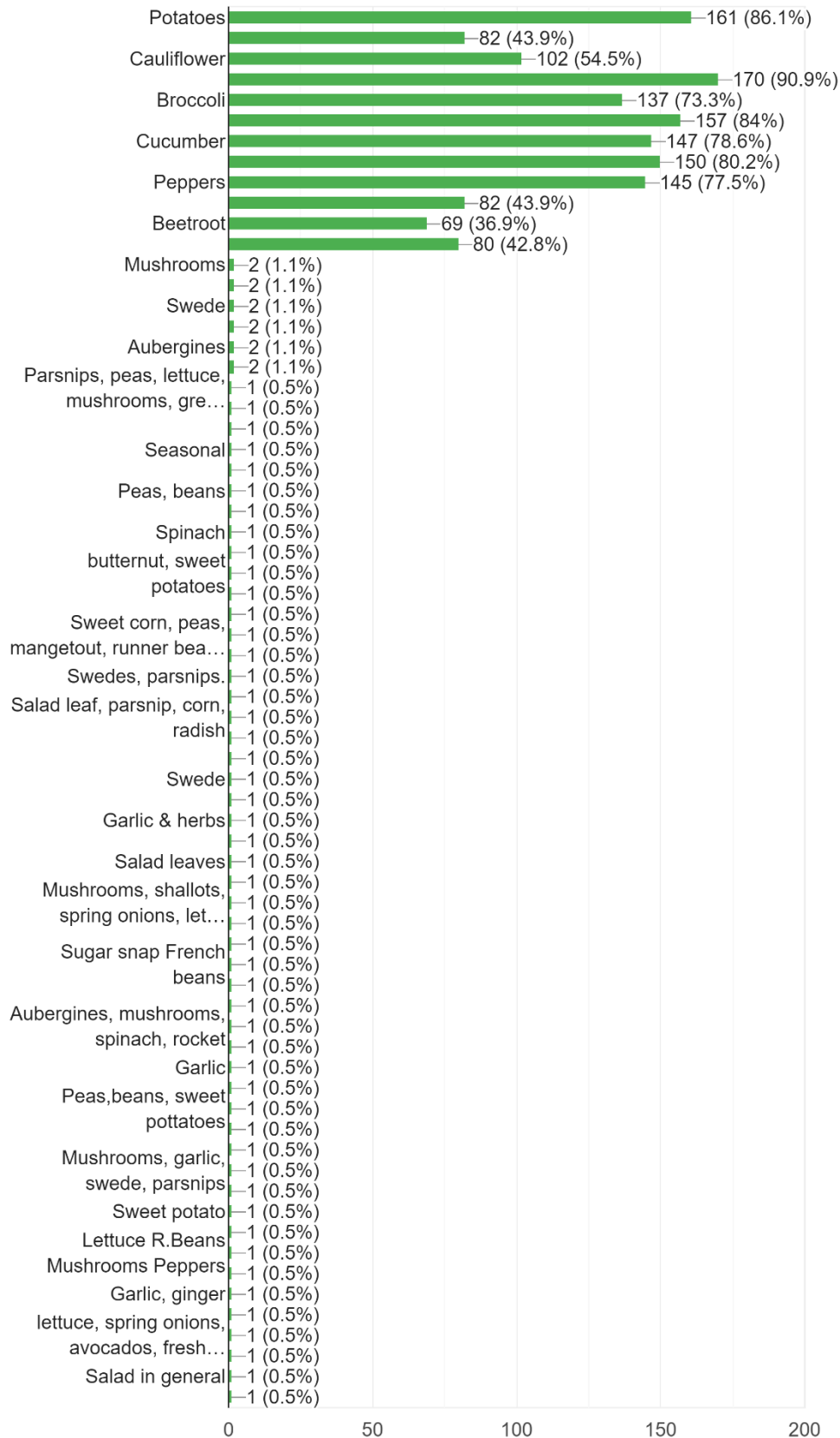
How much would you estimate you spend on fresh fruit and vegetables per week?

183 responses



What vegetables do you currently buy regularly?

187 responses



Where do you buy most of your fresh vegetables?

187 responses



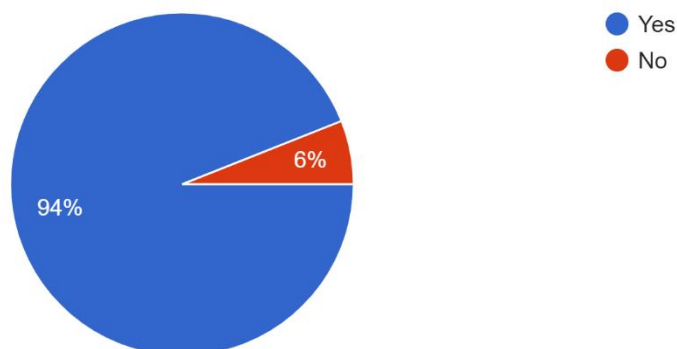
When shopping for your veg, what do you prioritise most?

186 responses



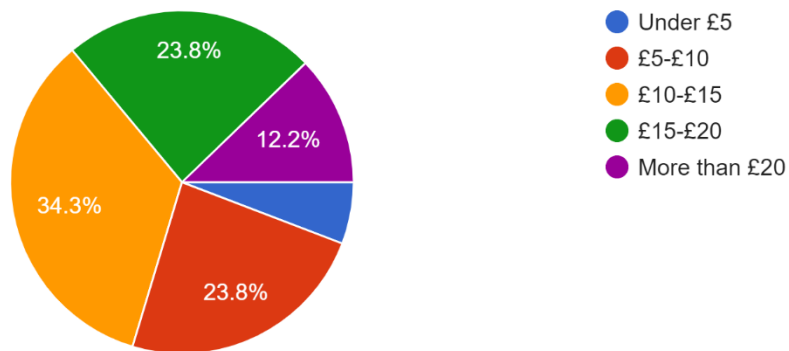
Would you consider joining a weekly, local veg box scheme?

183 responses



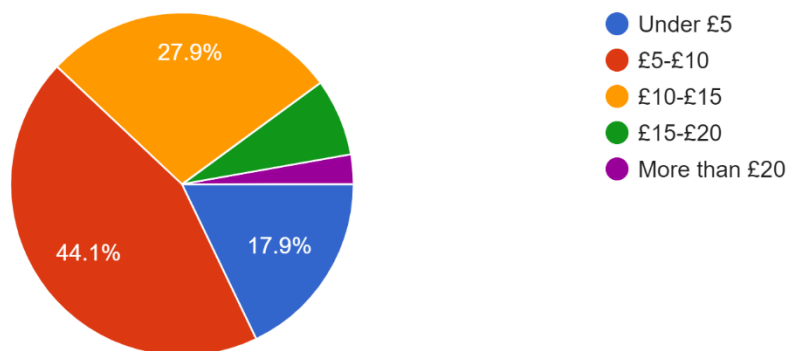
How much would you be prepared to pay for a weekly veg box that would supply all the vegetables for a family of 4?

172 responses



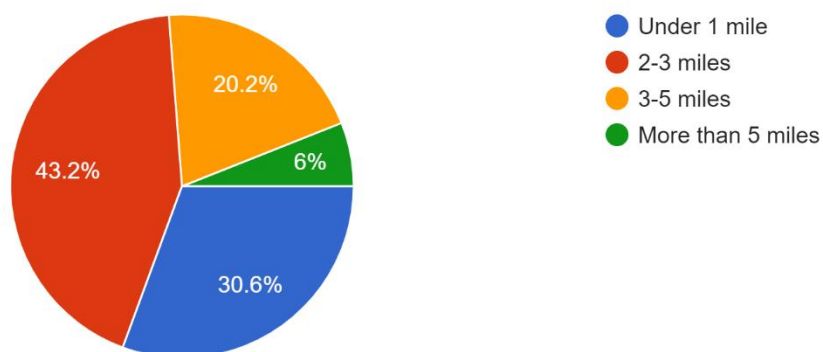
How much would you be willing to pay for a veg box that would supply all the veg for an individual or 2 person household?

179 responses



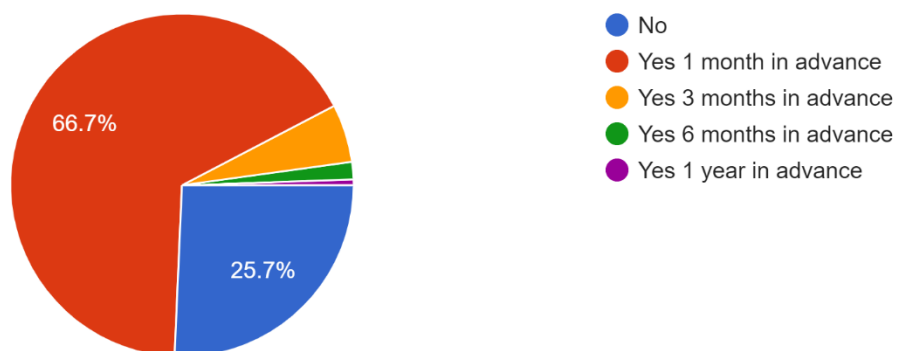
How far would you be willing to travel to collect your veg box?

183 responses



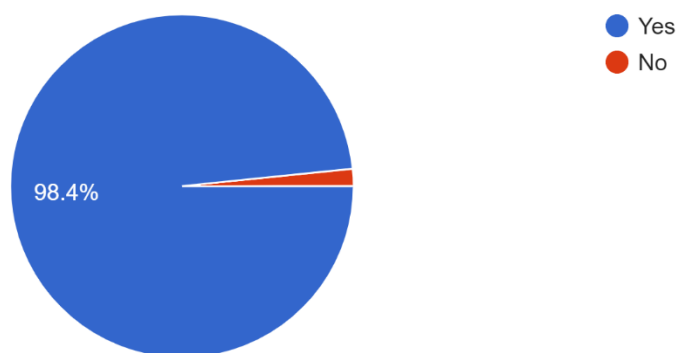
Would you be prepared to pay in advance as a subscription for your veg box?

183 responses



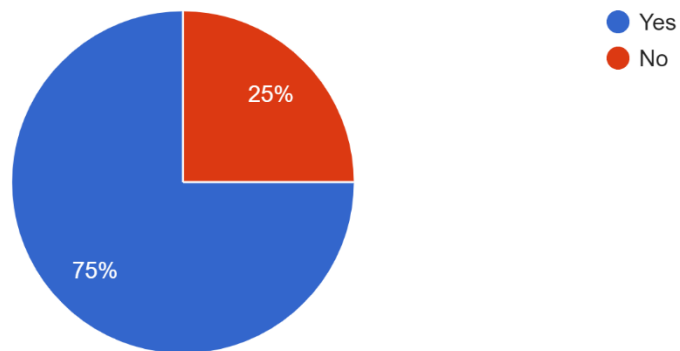
Would you like to have a community veg garden, producing most of the veg for the boxes, in your area?

184 responses



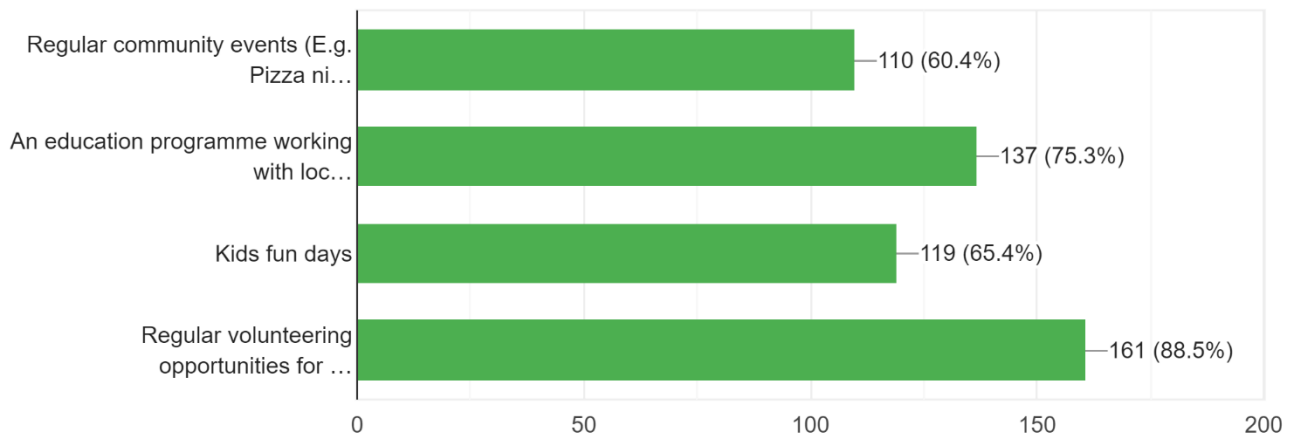
Would you be interested in getting involved with how your food is produced through volunteering in the community garden?

184 responses



If there was a community garden in your area what would you like to see going on there?

182 responses



Appendix C: Pobl Green Spaces Overview

Overview of current green space projects in Penderry.

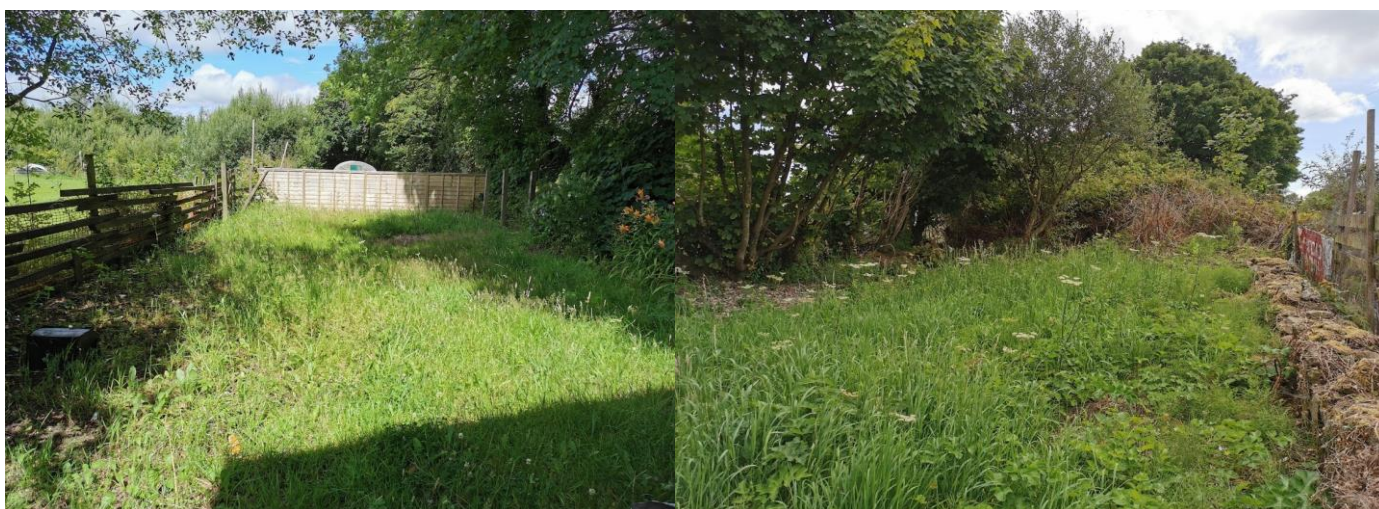
- **Vision for Penderry:** Penderry is one of 3 regeneration areas for Pobl. The long-term vision for Penderry is being developed with Pobl and Swansea Council where landscaping and Green infrastructure in the area is a top priority. This will be delivered in an asset-based approach led by community needs, building on what's already in the area through improving connectivity of green space, developing edible landscapes, informal play spaces and habitats to improve biodiversity.
- **Work with KWT:** Research project on fly tipping hotspots, why people fly tip in those areas and recommendations for behaviour change programmes. Community engagement project – plan was for community clean up days, but these have been postponed due to lockdown restrictions. Green flag award for the Drop-in Centre – postponed until 2021 due to reduced maintenance of the as all volunteer energy has been focused on the food share and food hub. Litter picking hub – set up at the Drop-in Centre so community members can borrow kit to do their own litter picking in the area.
- **NRW area statement connections and Shared Outcomes Request submitted:** In response to the survey results and links with the South West Area Statement the Drop-in Centre have submitted a Shared Outcome request to NRW to run a programme to engage community members in using their local green spaces to improve wellbeing. This will involve a series of outdoor activities that beneficiaries are interested in followed by outdoor leadership training to enable them to engage the wider community in self led activities.
- **Working with Nature PSB group:** Pobl sit on the PSB and the WWN sub group.
- **Green/Blue Infrastructure working group:** Pobl have established a Green/Blue Infrastructure working group for Penderry with partners including NRW environment team and Swansea Council Sustainability lead. These conversations need to restart as restrictions are lifted.
- **Green Infrastructure Wales Forum:** Pobl are members of the GI forum for Wales.
- **104 and the Drop-in Centre garden development:** Both spaces have previously been used as growing spaces with varying degrees of success. The Drop-in Centre has several raised beds in place and previously had a polytunnel. They are keen to work with NRW's environment team to redesign the space to maximise the edible landscapes in the garden and habitat. The 104 house is due to be refurbished to make it more of a flexible space for community use and development of the outdoor space will done with community engagement.
- **Community benefits focus:** All contractors that win a tender with Pobl have to provide an element of community benefits. This can be in the form of support from contractors to do works, resources or funding. The Drop-in Centre, the Community Farm, Muddy Park and Penlleagaer Valley woods have all identified works that could be done through community benefits.

Appendix D: Smaller Sites

Bon Y Maen: Small site previously used as a community garden but is no longer in use, located on the premises of a small church. Land available immediately for a small growing project.



Clase: A small site located within the grounds of a recently restored church. The land that could potentially be used for growing was once used as a kitchen garden for the vicarage and has remained largely overgrown since then.



Appendix E: Site visits report -Tom O'kane

Site Visits for potential Swansea East CSA – Tom O'Kane

In early September I travelled with Rob to visit a few potential CSA sites to assess suitability for growing veg. At each site I have considered suitability in terms of;

1. Geographical location / community access
2. Soil quality
3. Physical factors
4. Site area & capacity

Site 1 Garnswllt, Mawr.



1. Geographical location / community access

This is a playing fields alongside housing approximately 2 miles from Ammanford. It is not within the area we had been considering as Swansea East, but it could be a good site for a CSA to supply Ammanford, cross Hands &

Pontarddulais. It is close to a railway station which could allow produce to be transported directly to Llanelli in the south or Llandeilo in the North. There is a local food co-op in Llandeilo who have been seeking local produce & may well be interested. A community centre within a few hundred metres could be a good CSA distribution point.

2. Soil quality

On quick inspection the soil quality was good. It appears to be well drained and has a range of other plants growing within the dominant grass sward. The fact that it has been mown regularly, it will have been building fertility for some years. The soils was at least a spades depth, smelled good (i.e. not waterlogged or acidic) and had a reasonable quantity of worm's present. This would be a good growing soil. Before going ahead, it would be worth running some soils tests to assess soil nutrient levels & deficiencies.

3. Physical factors

It is flat ground, so easy to manage for cultivation. It has hard standing for car access or for putting up storage / packing sheds etc. It is surrounded by mature trees so reasonably protected from the prevailing weather. There will be accessible mains water nearby, possibly already on site.

4. Site area & capacity

There is 140m by 65m available. This is 9100m². If 1000m² was used for tracks, polytunnels, shed, fruit trees etc this would leave 8000m² for vegetable production.

Going on stats from Cae Tan, we grow for 126 households (equivalent of 85 full shares) using approximately 28,000m². This will produce food all year round & earns approx. £650 per member per year. Therefore, each full share household requires approximately 330m².

Therefore, this site could consider 2 options;

Option 1

Take on 27 full share equivalent households & grow everything earning £17,550.

Option 2

Take on 50 full share equivalents & buy in maincrop potatoes, onions, beetroot, parsnip etc (which are reasonably cheap) growing just the higher value produce earning £32,500.

Site 2 Craig Cefn Parc



1. Geographical location / community access

This is within a mile of Clydach & within a busy community. It has easy access to a large community & a nearby primary school.

2. Soil quality

This is a reclaimed waste site. The soil quality is poor. Soil is shallow & made up of brought in topsoil. Any growing would need to be done on raised beds. It would be worth doing tests to check for specific pollutants if being used for a food growing site.

3. Physical factors

The site is fairly high up but is sheltered by surrounding trees & housing. There is a footpath running through the site which is regularly used.

4. Site area & capacity

There are 4900m² available. This is difficult to estimate the site capacity as it would require bringing in raised bed materials to grow on a scale. This is likely to be uneconomical, unless the site was seen to be valuable for educational & community access.

Site 3 Kilvey Hill



1. Geographical location / community access

This would be an ideal location to access the Swansea East community. It is within easy reach of many of the communities we would like to benefit, walking distance to Swansea town centre.

2. Soil quality

The soil quality is very poor. The upper slopes are shallow & stony. The lower slopes, dominated by bramble & gorse are also shallow & stony.

3. Physical factors

The upper site is windblown & exposed. The lower site is south facing & sheltered. It is ideal for allotments where small areas could be developed by bringing in a lot of soil & fertility building materials.

4. Site area & capacity

The site could possibly be used to develop a small demonstration garden by clearing an area the size of a few allotments & bringing material in, but it does not have economical capacity to produce reasonable quantities of food to supply the local community.