Case Studies of New Development Space for Food Growing
Brighton Planning Context

Brighton and Hove Planning Advice Note 06, Food Growing and Development, 2011:

• “Recognise, safeguard, and encourage the role of allotments & garden plots within developments”

• **Goal:** allotment provision of at least 0.23 ha per 1000 residents, maximum 15 minutes walk

• **Benefits:** “improving the physical and mental health of residents, increasing bio-diversity in cities, reducing carbon emissions associated with long distance food distribution, and greening the urban landscape”
One Brighton

• 172 apartment mixed-use development Completed 2010
• set out to be one of the greenest and most sustainable urban communities in Europe
• Rooftop mini-allotments & balconies with integrated planters suitable for growing food, ‘edible landscaping’
Leeds Planning Context

- Core Strategy 2014
- Aire Valley Area Action Plan 2016/7

- make it easier for people to lead healthy lifestyles, with better access to fresh food shopping, the ability to grow their own food locally, and participate in recreational activities.
Saxton Gardens

Before

After
Site Plan

The Park - terraces, wild meadows, rolling lawns. Just like the countryside, only in the city.

BBQ areas.

Central Square links Saxton's two buildings. It runs above the valley and is where everyone meets, takes in the air and stops for chats.

Allotments to grow your own and orchards for apple picking.

Central Square

The Valley - car park

Drive

Parade

The Valley, we've dug down to create a dramatic linear space to park your car.

Boules court.

Grazed sun terraces.
Grow Your Own
Newham Planning Context


• Policy SC5 – Maximising Sustainable Design

3. Development should take advantage of linked opportunities in sustainable design and minimise conflict between different strands, notably through:

d. the opportunity to integrate **food growing**, including consideration as a temporary use.
Rathbone Market Canning Town

• Area formerly 1960s residential blocks, shops & a failing street market

• Development of contemporary apartments now boasts **communal gardens and allotments**.

• Mixed-use development on 5.5 acres with 652 new homes.
Waltham Forest Planning Context

Waltham Forest Local Plan - Core Strategy, 2012

• Policy CS5 – Enhancing Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
  
  “ensuring the adequate provision and efficient use of allotments and other spaces on which to **grow food** and plants”

• 8.20 – “Allotments, community gardens, and urban farms are a useful resource for delivering a range of benefits including providing a healthy and sustainable food resource and fostering opportunities for gentle exercise.”

Development Management Policies, 2013

• Policy DM12 “The Council **will expect** development proposals to contribute to the supply, quality and accessibility of private and communal spaces on which **to grow food** and flowers”
Walthamstow Stadium

- East London, borough of Waltham Forest
- Demolition of greyhound racing track besides historic sign
- 294 new homes of mixed form and tenure
- Community facilities including nursery, café, sports centre, and **new pocket allotments**
Lessons Learned

• Planning policy is a statement of council priorities to guide new development; don’t assume individual policies will be applied in all cases. They are not regulatory mechanisms to be “implemented”.
  – To create new food growing spaces, use planning policies to show support for your work, combining with other strategies
• Not all food growing spaces need planning permission
• Some planners, instead of recommending food growing space in new developments, recommend flexible green space that can become allotments, play area, outdoor seating etc, according to residents’ wishes
• Developers are trending towards “place making” and “community infrastructure” in new developments – food growing space can help them meet that goal
• Policy is the start of the journey, engagement, facilitation and ongoing management are key.
Webinar Key Messages

- **Sustainable Food Cities**
  Think: what do you want your place to look like?

- **Developers**
  Improve social & environmental attractiveness of development

- **Councils**
  Planning for a sustainable food system meets many strategic objectives
Time for Questions & Discussions

Post your questions in the chat box
Do you have any good examples of new developments to share?
What does a sustainable food city will look like?

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Email  gillian@sustainweb.org