



Hull Food Growing policy no 46

How was it done?

Context: Food4Hull

Food4Hull has been part of an active network of the community and voluntary sector for 4 years. We now even have a CVS city strategy! Especially important growing links with

- Friends of the Earth
- Transition and Permaculture Hull
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- The Growers' Network

Also

- Groundworks
- Hull and Humber Timebank
- EMS (Environment Management Services)
- Rooted in Hull city farm (of 3)
- William Jackson Food Group tree planting agenda



Brief history of Hull landscape

- ▶ Land is cheap and plentiful (largest number allotment sites in the UK)
- ▶ Undeveloped for many years so there is lots of space (although mapping is important and would be useful)
- ▶ Council never were hostile to the idea of planting (eg the Wilson bed)
- ▶ Good relationship with the relevant parks and gardens people in the Council office and many other contacts in the council (eg the partnership development and engagement lead)
- ▶ Availability of 3 page 'contract' for any responsible community group who wanted to use council land to grow on
- ▶ Increasing numbers of community 'growing groups'
- ▶ Commissioning of Food4Life partnership in 2016 for 3 years.



“..... it was largely through (your) lobbying that a policy for local food growing was inserted into the latest draft of the Hull Local Plan”.

So all and many thanks to Gillian Morgan from Capital Growth and my contact in the Council planning office who helped the process of getting a growing policy into the planning consultation process



Policy 46 (not yet adopted)

Local food growing

1. The use of land and buildings as new allotments, orchards and for local food growing spaces and production will be supported, including the temporary use of vacant or derelict land or buildings and the use of amenity greenspace on housing estates and other open space areas, where this does not conflict with other policy objectives or land use priorities.
2. The incorporation of community gardens, allotments, orchards and innovative spaces for growing food, including green roofs, will be encouraged and supported in new developments where possible and appropriate, particularly where there is demand for food growing space in the vicinity of the application site.
3. The inclusion of productive trees and plants in landscaping schemes will be encouraged where appropriate.

<http://ow.ly/JarZ30bsTsc>



So what did we do? Remember nothing happens quickly.....

- ▶ Attended the ‘health and well-being strategy’ consultation in **Spring 2014** (articulating the link between exercise, green space, mental health & local food access)
- ▶ Attended the local city plan consultation **June 2014** morning public consultation. Not much chance to speak as discussion mostly about housing needs
- ▶ Filled in the online consultation which took best part of the day and seemed to be repetitive but made the point about green spaces and corridors, mental health and well-being (there is a vague link here to the Council “Health and Well-being Strategy 2014-2020” Healthier, Happier Longer lives <http://ow.ly/hQjv30bwuAb> p16)
- ▶ There were some comments from other organisations (most of who I knew) on these submissions but no real objections
- ▶ **Autumn 2015** - previous work rewarded by status recognition of topic of ‘promoting healthy communities’ (good) but where was food?



After some correspondence the council then summarised the Food4Hull preferred option consultation responses as having said:

- *“it is difficult to see any mention of food in the current document. This includes access to healthy food, inclusion of green space and strategic guidance for major housing developments and support and encouragement for edible planting and other species to increase biodiversity value”*
- As a result (one hopes) of this lobbying the council wrote a ***new policy to support using land for local food growing*** (supported in different ways by Hull FoE, Rooted in Hull city farm & Sport England)
- **July-Sept 2016** on publication of the Hull Local Plan consultation document, the new section on Local food growing and Policy no 46 can be seen. (2 more respondents supported this policy)
- **December 2016 Submission of the Local plan to the Planning inspectorate** (now currently under inspection).



Evaluation

- ▶ Be persistent and attend consultations in person if you can
- ▶ Be aware of the various other levers of policy - health and well-being, exercise and diet, biodiversity, amenities, green infrastructure
- ▶ You don't have to be involved in all the growing projects and allotment groups and green happenings in the city but it really helps to know about them hence the value of being part of an established network
- ▶ Producing the new policy was possible because it didn't require anything from anyone, simply "encouraging" schemes for local food growing
- ▶ Keeping up the pressure and interest is vital and eternal vigilance is needed especially as this policy is not 'forceful' so it remains for us to raise and maintain the profile of food in the city.

