

Community Kitchen Gardens

Royal Borough Environment Project

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



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About the Program



The Community Kitchen Garden Programme
“transforms under-used, neglected or disused areas
of land into allotment style gardens where local
residents can grow their own fruit and vegetables”



A gardening workshop at the
Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre's
new community kitchen garden

How It Works



- Managed by the Royal Borough Environment Project (RBEP) in Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
- Started in 2009-10
- Includes 700 community kitchen gardens, used by 1,500 people
- Average plot size: 3m²
- Partners: private landowners, housing associations, Groundwork London and Council's Housing Dept.
- No allotments in RBKC
- Most new sites too small to need planning approval

Support for Growers



- Two staff community gardeners provide support, advice, and training during growing season
- Run programme of garden workshops, events and provide gardening support
- Garden clubs to self-manage sites
- Annual gardening competition
 - 2012, new prize for Vegetable Plots



The kitchen garden at Sir Thomas Moore Estate

RBKC Food-Growing Planning Policy



Consolidated Local Plan (July 2015):

- “36.3.13 The ecological footprint in the borough is 6.39 global hectares per capita, which is the second highest in London (The London average is 5.48 and national average is 5.30). The primary contributors in the borough are food (28 per cent) and housing (21 per cent). This, together with the greenhouse gases emitted during the transportation of food and manufacture of packaging, makes **food production close to its consumption an important consideration** for the borough. There is opportunity, even in small developments, to **use private garden space, green/living roofs and sheds to facilitate small scale on-site food production**, and larger developments present different opportunities.” (page 218)
- “Policy CE 1: Climate Change: g. require development to incorporate measures that will contribute **to on-site sustainable food production** commensurate with the scale of development.” (page 219)



The Mayor and Mayoress launching the new garden at Pond House

Success Factors



- Strong political and resident support
- Correct staffing structure
- Ongoing support
- Small steps
- Celebrate success and make it fun!



Lessons Learned

- Encourage early resident involvement and garden clubs
- Use peer-to-peer training and local knowledge
- Food-growing planning policy as support and back-up for borough programmes
- Cross-collaboration between municipal departments



For more information:



- **Report:** The Royal Borough Environment Project 2015-2016, available as a free PDF download from <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environment/environment-project/royal-borough-environment-project>
- **Planning Policy:** RBKC Consolidated Local Plan (July 2015), available as a free PDF download from <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan>
- **To apply** for a community kitchen garden: <https://www.eforms.rbkc.gov.uk/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=AhRA9FMRvJ9>
- **Contact:** environment@rbkc.gov.uk



Thank you!