



## Winchburgh Community Growing Group

### KSB & RHS 2021 Competition

#### 1) Introduction

Winchburgh Community Growing group formed in 2018 and has benefited the community in several ways:

- Bringing the community together through the love and food and growing in general
- Build, planted and maintain over 50 planters in local streets, businesses and church's
- Planters also located at Niddry Castle golf club, Winchburgh Nursery and two primary schools
- Two orchards are located at next to the Nursery and Barrats Park.
- Supporting and introducing existing members of Winchburgh with people who have moved here
- Have several planters sponsored by local businesses
- Sub group – Winchburgh Wombles who launched with real wombles going about the village with a bag piper plauing the theme tune – Over 1000 volunteers hours completed in year one with 900 bags of litter collected which are logged on a Womble Portal which updates a spreadsheet.
- Taken part in the local gala day giving away bee bombs, free plants and in the parade giving away gala apples
- WCGG members have started in a video showing how working with the developers impacts the community for good <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eS2hxzU-Bs4>

Have received several grants from:

- West Lothian Council
- Winchburgh Developments LTD
- Cala Homes
- Scotmid
- Sainsburys
- The Orchard Project
- Tesco Bags for Help

Future plans include a 1.5 acre site opening to volunteers in September 2021 in the new Auldcaithie park with storage, tools, community workshops and growing for all ages and abilities available throughout the year. Our idea and inspiration to enter this year was to bring back flower beds that the council used to look after circa 1970 for Winchburgh to enjoy post 2021.

## 2.1) Horticultural Achievements

Winter 2021

2020 saw WCGG gain two awards for helping to keep the community growing at home through FREE non contact items

More information can be found on <https://www.winchburghcgg.co.uk/RHS>

Awarded:

- Certificate of Recognition
- Certificate for Inspiring others

Sainsbury's and Scotmid along with Winchburgh Development's LTD supplied 1000s of bulbs which were planted for Spring! Free bird seed was provided across the community and ideas on how to create bird feeders supplied.

- Storys from Winchburgh – Garden book (launch Sep 2021)



- Bulbs and Beds tidied



## 2.2) Horticultural Achievements

Spring 2021

- Build bespoke food planter next to Winchburgh Parish church planter for all daily food donations from Sainsbury's to go each day:



- £100's of free seeds for Winchburgh



**NEWS!**

**We have seeds, let's sow, grow, harvest and eat!**

**March 2021**

**Veggie Bonanza!**

Winchburgh Community Growing Group (WCGG)



## 2.3) Horticultural Achievements

Summer 2021

Foraging Events

A beginners guide to foraging hosted by Vivian Maeda! This tour included a sample of locally foraged cordial, some nettle cake and proved to be such a success for everyone involved – It also boosted the uptake of foraging locally and safely.



Bennet's Wood Terrace

KSB – Main entry point 2021



### **3) Environmental Responsibility**

#### **Winchburgh Community Growing Group**

The benefits to growing and eating local are well published and WCGG was formed to allow food to be grown literally tight up your street! The pandemic and Brexit further highlighted the need and benefits to being self-sufficient. Low food miles mean anyone can pick some fresh mint and potatoes and walk home to make a delicious dish picking from a recipe featured on [www.WinchburghCGG.co.uk](http://www.WinchburghCGG.co.uk)

"Taste the difference" is a slogan Sainsbury's use for some of their products, WCGG supporters who pick from the planters know that taste the of locally grown and eaten food can't be beaten.

#### **4) Community Participation**

WCGG was formed as a response to the community of Winchburgh growing and ensuring cohesion. It's important to bring people together and sowing, growing and eating is a passion shared by the community new to growing and residents with years of knowledge and experience.

The local council have supported the efforts allowing planters to be placed on council land along with developer's land ensuring food is fresh and accessible to all. WCGG attended soup and a chat hosted by WLC which has helped them develop best practice and create a picture of growing group in West Lothian, soon to be published is a report. Working with local businesses, churches, schools and residents to bring everyone together over the love of growing. During covid and 1st lock down WCGG supported people at home, delivering 100s of free tomatoes, strawberries, seeds, potatoes and trees for the community to adopt which have been planted in Auldscathie park. Elizebeth Borthwick looks back in this book to 1982 when Winchburgh had an active flower show giving out prizes to residents and schools.

## **5. Finance**

Winchburgh Community Growing Group actively seeks for funding from various sources and reports back to achievements

Sub group wombles are targeted per month to collect litter and receive funds from WDL to help support local businesses through a voucher scheme and also give back to the community through growing

Please see attached our last 3 month bank statements.

## 6) Plans for the future

We plan in 2021 to kick off our new venture with 1.5 acre of land in the new Auldcathie district park as well as maintain our existing planters, tyres, orchards and benet wood terrace.

Food and plants that's right up your street!