

## Tullibody Community Garden Carseview, Tullibody



**Where:** Tullibody Community Garden is situated between Carseview and Patterson Place, Tullibody FK10 2SR

**What:** Tullibody Healthy Living have built a productive fruit and vegetable garden with a community building, a social area, a polytunnel and raised beds to allow people of all physical abilities to grow food.

**Why:** Tullibody Healthy Living responded to the community's request for locally grown food by researching and then developing the Tullibody Community Garden. The produce from the garden is sold at the weekly Tullibody Fruit and veg Barra.

**Who:**

- Volunteers are involved in all of the Garden activities, including gardening, running events, cooking and 'grow your own' workshops and planning what we do next. There are fifteen regular volunteers and more than 30 'casual' volunteers
- Local people attending events and workshops
- Schools and nurseries through regular gardening activities

### 1. What are you most proud of?

The fact that we have transformed a grass field into a productive garden and that so many people have been involved! We have had help and support from local folk, local and national organisations and local businesses. People and they have been very generous.

People get a lot from volunteering in the Community Garden. They enjoy it and the experience makes them feel good about themselves!

### 2. What was hard?

It has been a struggle to deal with year to year funding. It means that you need to keep filling in funding applications and doing reports at the same time as you're recruiting new volunteers, giving existing volunteers support and harvesting your onions! We're planning to look for longer term funding

### 3. What surprised you?

There have been lots of surprises along the way:

- There is a great sense of community in Tullibody – people are very generous with their time for their community
- A first a lot of our plans have looked like nothing would come of them. Then after a while they everything comes together they happen. Sometimes when you plant an idea it takes a little time to germinate
- Our soil is very good for growing vegetables and weeds!



### 4. What would you do differently?

Get longer term-funding so we had more time to get the basics sorted and to plan more. You can only fly by the seat of your pants for so long!

Make more time to meet up and speak with other projects along the way. Sometimes it's easy to work away and forget to look up and see what is going on elsewhere. There are lots of great ideas out there – ready to be adapted and changed to your needs!

### 5. What advice would you give to others?

I would advise others to speak to and visit lots of community gardens to help plan yours. A really great starting point is to join the Federation of city farms and community gardens (Scotland) – it's free. They will link you up with similar projects and are always on hand with practical suggestions.

Be very clear about what you want to achieve but be flexible about how you might get there. We wanted to grow veg and sell it back to the community, but our project has grown arms and legs. Now we're going to go back to our community to check whether we're on the right track.

Give lots of thought, time and energy to making volunteering experiences great!

Celebrate achievements! Stop and pause to acknowledge different people's contributions. It's important to mark changes when they are happening and enjoy showing of to others – get others to say "Wow"

Make sure your space is non-political, free of talk about football and religion so everyone can feel welcome and challenge behaviour that goes against that.

## 6. Contact

### **Tullibody Community Garden**

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### **Clackmannanshire Council**

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Website: <http://www.clacks.gov.uk/community/growclacks/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GrowClacks/>

### **Forth Environment Link**

Website: <http://www.forthenvironmentlink.org/projects/grow-forth/community-food-projects>

### **Federation of City Farms and Gardens (Scotland)**

Website: <https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/your-area/scotland>



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