

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in my capacity as an elected councillor on Bristol City Council, and as a longstanding member of Sims Hill, to express my support of Sims Hill Shared Harvest becoming a Climate Hub as part of the Tasting a Better Future project.

I have been a member of Sims Hill since it started, and supported it getting off the ground by paying my share for several months before vegetables were actually being produced on the farm, and I volunteered on marketing in the project's first year, helping to recruit new members. I continue to be a member of the CSA.

Bristol as a city and a council is committed to climate action. My successful motion to Bristol City Council in 2018 led to Bristol being the first council in Europe to declare a Climate Emergency, and brought forward the city's carbon neutral target date by 20 years, from 2050 to 2030. The city has since declared an Ecological Emergency, been named a Gold Sustainable Food City, and initiated several projects to reduce its carbon emissions, notably City Leap. However, there is still much to do, especially on the greenhouse gas emissions and ecological impacts of the food we eat. And I believe Sims Hill can play an important role in this.

If allocated this funding, Sims Hill plans to: engage even more people onto the land, through farm tours, events and community meals; expand the reaches of their Soil Connections group, which works with people who have been affected by the asylum system; and run short courses to inspire people to grow their own food and further develop their connection to land.

I believe that the farm is well located and equipped to run this project, as it is easily accessible via bus routes and cycle routes within 20 mins of the Bristol City Centre. It also has facilities on site to host groups of people, evidenced by the many events and groups Sims Hill have already run on site. As Sims Hill was created as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project, where all share the risks and benefits of the land and the harvest, people have always been at the heart of this farm. However, it is challenging to make a profit from vegetable production and

for the growers to carve out enough time to organise several community focused activities. If allocated the funding, Sims Hill would be able to strengthen its connections to members of the CSA and expand to connecting and inviting even more people onto the land, to support some of their existing projects with additional and much needed resources, and to invest in systems and processes that allow the team to focus both on food growing and on community.

Yours faithfully,

Carla Denyer

Councillor for Clifton Down

[cllr.carla.denyer@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.carla.denyer@bristol.gov.uk)