

Food Growing



A Plymouth perspective with case studies

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Plymouth City Council

The Planning Context



- Detailed understanding of assets and problems
- Clear Vision
- Advanced LDF
- Focus on Delivery
- Community engagement



The Food Context

- Serious health inequalities
- Underdeveloped food sector
- Groundswell of community projects
- Productive countryside
- *Food Plymouth*

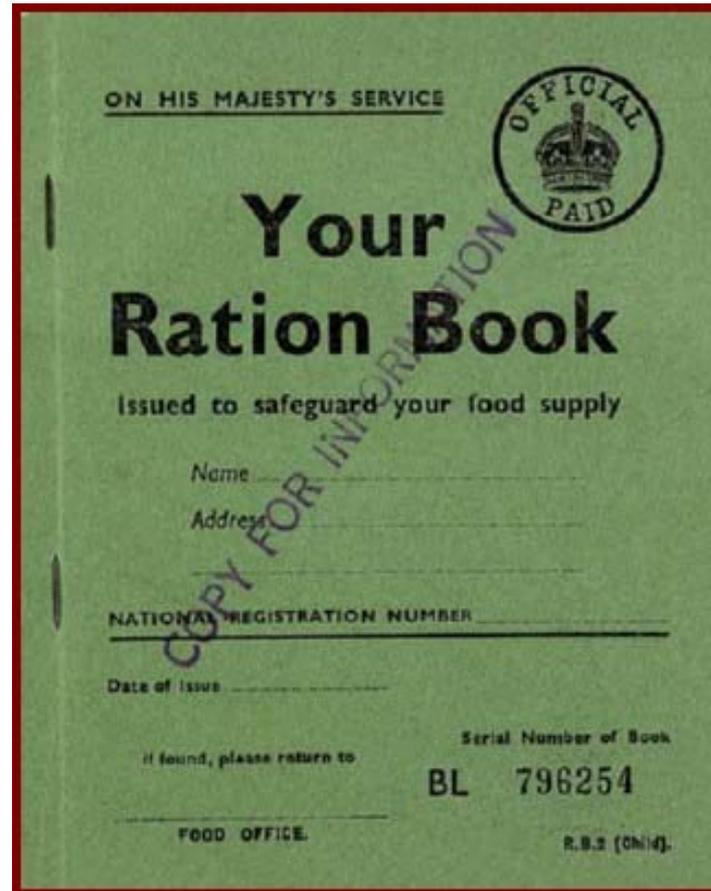


Planning for food.....in a period of austerity



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- Falls between departments
- Discretionary
- Lack of funding
- Pockets of excellence
- Community and business support
- Being creative about food objectives



Plymouth Food Charter



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- A thriving local economy
- Health and wellbeing for all
- Resilient, close-knit communities
- Life long learning & skills
- A reduced eco-footprint



Non Commercial Food Growing



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The Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan



- A tool to help pro-actively plan for new areas of food growing as part of the GI network.
 - creation of new spaces for food growing,
 - re-design of existing areas to incorporate food growing and
 - an increased recognition of the important ecosystem services growing spaces provide.
- embeds the development of these areas in the planning system;
- structured and coordinated approach to funding and delivery;
- incorporates food growing in with natural space planning and delivery.



Allotments

- One of first authorities to offer 1/2 plots
- 499 full-sized and 841 half-plots
- occupancy up from 60% five years ago to an average of 98% now
- new allotments on Council land
- working with private land owners and National Trust to set up sites & link to the city's waiting list
- extensive support to a host of community and school projects



Diggin It



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- a community garden growing and selling vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers, on unused allotment land that has been made available by Plymouth City Council.
- welcomes a wide range of volunteers and participants.
- provides horticultural and environmental activities for local schools and community groups as well as an advisory service
- The overriding aim of the project is to provide an environment that will benefit a range of vulnerable or socially disadvantaged people, helping them to become better integrated within the community and bringing communities together.



Tamar Grow Local

- a 'not for profit' Community Interest Company, promoting sustainable local produce in the Tamar Valley
- **Community** - Providing opportunities and support for local people to grow their own food.
- **Education** - Raising awareness of the benefits of local produce and the unique market gardening history of this area.
- **Commercial** - Working with commercial growers and supply chains to increase the availability & consumption of local food and produce.



- allotment sites in Plymouth and Cornwall
- a training apiary and community orchard
- online webmap of local food
- festivals
- The TGL **Growing the Valley Project** received 'Local Food' funding to employ a 'Propagator' to
 - facilitate a range of further community projects and promote collaboration between these, working with partners and landowners.
 - develop greater links between producers and communities including markets
 - ensure each project is sustainable, financially, socially as well as environmentally!



TGL St Budeaux



- Half acre site
- 20 individual plots
- 2 community plots
 - Sure Start
 - The Zone
- Before – 2009
- After – 2010



Ingredients for success

- Cultural aspects
- Enthusiasm
- Interest
- Funding
- Land



Other Community Opportunities



- Meanwhile uses for land and buildings
- Small scale urban farming
- And.....



Guerilla Gardening



- Not exactly mainstream, but...



Thank you



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Commercial Food Growing



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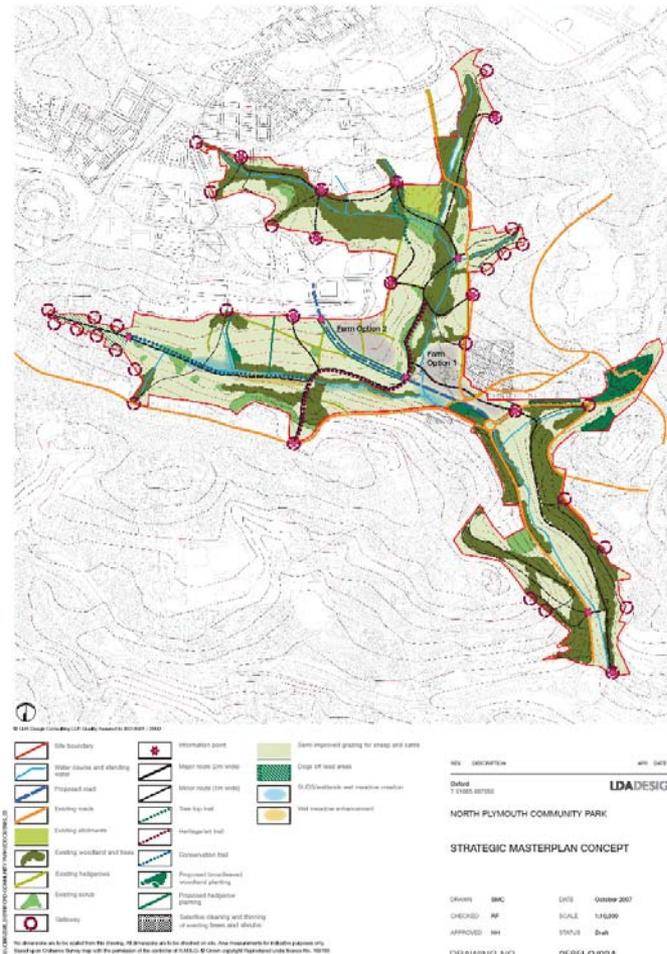
Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- Increased recognition that to respond to future challenges (climate change etc) urban areas need to understand and appreciate the role the hinterland can play in the provision of food and fuel
- Land use planning can provide further certainty on the future use of the land – i.e. identification of land that will be protected for agricultural use.
- GI partnerships can raise the importance of these areas for food growing but also the additional ecosystem services these areas deliver.



N Plymouth Community Park

- A city environmental education centre, including a working farm, farm shop, café, exhibition gallery, and educational facilities.
- Community allotments and orchards
- Network of pedestrian and cycle routes, including a treetop trail
- Local nature reserve across whole area



Tamar Grow Local



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- Aim to foster and develop opportunities for producers in the Tamar Valley by addressing some key issues.
- **Producer's Co-op** - Support to existing and new producers by providing added value, access to new markets, marketing, resources, distribution, training and education.
- **Growers Land Trust** - access to land at affordable rents and share resources, and strong educational and training remit, not only for growers, but those involved in catering.



Not forgetting the sea!

- Fishing Fleet
- Contributes to economy
- Tradition and heritage
- Fish market
- Sutton Harbour AAP



Supporting Markets



- City Market and Farmers Market
- Public Sector Procurement
 - Schools
 - University
 - Health
- Flavour Fest
- Exploiting the relationship between the surrounding countryside and a city of 250,000 people – urban fringe planning policies



Opportunities

- Shopping policy
- Food led regeneration
 - City Market
 - *Eat Sutton Harbour*
- A Columbian University Professor, Dickson Despommier has stated that, “a farm able to feed 50,000 people could 'fit comfortably within a city block’
- Oliver Fosters vertical farm



Thank you



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