

Vocal

VCSE forums facilitated by
Salford CVS

Vocal Environment Forum



Date: **Friday 6th of October**

Time: **9:30 – 12:30**

Venue: **Incredible Education CIC (Cleavley Community Forest Garden M30 8HY)**

Theme: **Green Space Utilisation and Development in Salford**

Number of people registered: **39**

Salford CVS staff present: **5**

Speakers:

- **Ian Bockock**, Director & Horticulture Education Lead at Incredible Education CIC
- **Pam Warhurst**, Chair of Incredible Edibles CIC, and lead campaigner on the “Right to Grow”, which aims to revolutionise the way in which the community can access and utilise unused public land
- **Jo Regan**, Service Manager – Parks and Streetscene at Salford City Council
- **Simon Robinson**, Grants Manager at Salford CVS

The forum was chaired by Martyn Wilcock from Salford CVS, who welcomed the attendees and thanked Incredible Education for hosting in their new community workshop area which was in-part funded by the Big Ideas Fund managed by Salford CVS.

Ian Bockock, Director of Horticulture Education at Incredible Education CIC



then gave a presentation to the forum about the history of Incredible Education, how they have developed and reinvigorated the grounds. Attendees were welcomed to explore the site, including the woodworking workshop adjoining, the woodland school area and the greenhouses.

The forum then heard from **Pam Warhurst**, chair of Incredible Edibles CIC and lead campaigner for the '[Right to Grow](#)', which strives to change the rules around local public sector land, to allow communities to grow food and promote wildlife in their local areas.



“A Right to Grow would require local authorities to maintain a free, accessible map of all public land that is suitable for community cultivation or wildlife projects. They would also need to make it straight-forward for community groups to secure free leases to cultivate the land and allow those groups to bid for the land should the authority decide to sell it.”

Pam talked about the history of the campaign, its successes, its setbacks and how councillors and local campaign groups can work together to simplify community growing. There was a discussion about the practicalities of Salford taking incorporating the Right to Grow as a policy, with attendees suggesting areas that could be repurposed in Salford for the community.

The forum asked Pam questions about the process of the bill gaining support in the House of Lords and subsequently the House of Commons. As of the forum, the Government's Levelling up Bill is going through Parliament and Incredible Edibles have successfully secured a proposal to amend the bill, to include the Right to Grow. It received positive support during debate in the House of Lords. Its inclusion in the final bill is yet to be debated in The Commons.



The forum then heard from **Jo Regan** – Service Manager of Parks and Streetscene at Salford City Council.

Jo explained all the work that is being done in Salford regarding our parks and green spaces.

This included how our green spaces are being developed to have more playgrounds, multi-

use games areas, sports pitches, bowling greens and to be able to deal with increased demand with events and activities.

There was also an update on the tree management policy in Salford to ensure that dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees are being dealt with appropriately *and* that we are still looking for new planting opportunities.

Further to this, Jo explained the breadth of projects ongoing within the team, including: upgrades to Albert Park 3G pitch, upgrades to tennis pitches in parks, Eccles Rec outdoor gym, a virtual peel park, St Stephens Garden, and identifying potential biodiversity net gain offset sites.



Finally, the forum heard from **Simon Robinson** – Grants Manager at Salford CVS, who gave an update to the ongoing green grants in Salford, and updates to historic grants that have benefitted the green agenda within our communities.

Simon explained that most of the

grants that Salford CVS manage focus on achieving health and wellbeing outcomes, however utilising the natural environment can be the perfect mechanism for achieves those goals.

In conjunction with RHS Bridgewater and Salford Integrated ICP, the Grow Well fund is due to return in early December, with grants of up to £2,000 for green and growing projects.

- ◆ **Food Growing** ◆ **Floral Displays** ◆ **Community Gardens** ◆
- ◆ **Tree Planting** ◆ **Greening Back Alleys** ◆ **Community Orchards** ◆
- ◆ **Wildflower Planting** ◆ **Gardening Competitions** ◆

All interested should

- Keep an eye on: <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/live-grants>
- Or sign up to our funding e-bulletin <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/signup>
- Contact us at: grants@salfordcvs.co.uk
- Or call us on: 0161 787 7795