



## CLAY FARM COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP AGM 2022 Activity Report 2021-2022

At the 2019 AGM it was expected that the Steering Group, set up by the Council and Countryside with representatives from the Garden and neighbouring residents would drive forward work to complete the Garden infrastructure. However, the Steering Group did not meet every 2 months as planned after June 2019. In 2021, although a couple of Steering Group did take place to discuss specific issues, others were cancelled at the last minute and no minutes were forthcoming for those that did take place. The Garden Group then organised meetings with Council and Countryside on their own initiative and noted and circulated the solutions agreed.

As a result, some infrastructure in and around the Garden has been partially completed.

Nevertheless there has been no communication from the Council and Countryside on how outstanding issues will be resolved! We learned by chance that the site is now in the “snagging and maintenance” period pre-handover to the Council. There is however a long list of issues to solve.

We have had restricted access to the building since early 2022, but there are still issues, including keeping the storage area securely partitioned so that it can be shared between both allotment holders and community garden volunteers.

The future licence between the Council and the Garden Group is still being finalised and will come into effect once the Council takes ownership of the Garden. This will happen when Countryside has fulfilled all its planning obligations satisfactorily. There will be a section of the licence with the Council that will apply to shared access and use of the building by the Garden Group and Hobson Park Allotments Group.

The table and benches to be funded under the Public Art budget have yet to be installed.

### **Activities:**

The team of volunteers to water the Garden was expanded during the 2022 drought. Their work has enabled us to make regular, much needed, donations of vegetables to the Trumpington Food Hub.

A few regulars have continued to plant and weed in the Garden.

After the support of local Councillor Olaf Hauk, a number of volunteers are helping Clay Farm Food to bring back the Food truck businesses to Hobson Square to supplement our Summer

Thursday evening picnics. The Council requires complete health, safety, hygiene and business documents for each Food truck.

Beanissimo, now run by Emma, and the Thursday summer Garden Picnic food trucks provide a vital source of income for the Garden.

Popular events during late 2021 and 2022 were pumpkin carving, Big Dig 2, rose tree planting, a visit from the Collaboration Choir.

We were represented at the Christmas event at the Clay Farm Centre and at the Summer events on the King George V playing field.

In 2022 Astra Zeneca sent 2 groups of volunteers. One group built new compost bins. Groundwork East ran a free 6 week course "Sprouting Out" aimed at improving life skills for cooking and food growing.

Local parents of pre-schoolers have set up a small group using the building for suitable gardening activities and we aim to develop the area once covered by the polytunnel to create a child friendly area away from the road.

We applied for and were awarded two funding grants, one to buy a durable battery powered trimmer, and another to develop the area around the pond and mound. Unfortunately due to the failure of Countryside to decompact the ground in the West garden appropriately, plus the drought conditions of 2022 many of the plants and trees have died and the pond dried up completely.

Harkness Roses donated 2 dozen rose trees and one of their special Platinum Jubilee "John Ystumlyn" rose trees. One of our volunteers was invited to a tour of Buckingham Palace Gardens to see the new rose tree that had been presented to the Queen.

We were awarded a grant to help us host a Platinum Jubilee Garden Party. This attracted many local residents and was a big success.

A volunteer with artistic design skills has redesigned the board near the building and the Garden picnic events A-board. You can also find some of his work on our blog <https://clayfarmgarden.org/blog/>.

All our events, and garden work is carried out by local volunteers. Even a little help is much appreciated. Many different skills are welcome to continue to ensure that the Garden remains a beautiful and restful community space, open to all.