

Project Title: Green Thumbs Community Growing Initiative

Applicant Organisation: The Action Group (on behalf of Green Thumbs Gardening Group)

Project Summary

The Action Group is supporting the formation of a new, informal gardening group called **Green Thumbs**, made up of our clients—adults with support needs. While Green Thumbs is currently unconstituted, The Action Group will act as the parent organisation, overseeing risk management, safeguarding, and overall facilitation.

This project aims to create a sustainable community food growing initiative that promotes inclusion, healthy living, and environmental awareness through accessible food growing.

Project Description and Objectives

1. Growing Space & Access

- The primary growing site for the edible garden will be our *indoor courtyard*, a secure and contained environment accessible to group members throughout the week.
- This space will be used to grow herbs, vegetables, and fruit safely, reducing the risk of vandalism or contamination, ensuring the produce is safe to distribute.
- A secondary, **publicly accessible growing space**—an open green area adjacent to our building—will host a stall where produce can be shared with the wider community, either for free or by small donation. This is public facing and our signage that we make from recycled woods etc can emphasize that people can help themselves to the fruit produced once they are fruiting. Ideally we'd have accessible paving established in this area too to invite community engagement to everyone, and as a disability confident group (Green Thumbs) & organisation (The Action Group).

2. Community Engagement & Accessibility

- Produce will be shared via a public honesty stall, encouraging local engagement and healthy eating.
- For long-term impact, we plan to create a **community orchard** in a fully public accessible space next to our building- while it is The Action

Group's land, it is accessible to the public. Signage will be used encouraging people to pick fruit freely. One client is especially passionate about creating apple juice from these trees in future years.

- We are aiming to establish connections with community businesses to share resources and publicity where possible. We have connected with Granton Community Gardeners Community Group previously for some general advice.

3. Skills Building and Inclusion

- Clients in our Falkirk service are developing basic carpentry skills using recycled materials to make planter boxes. These will be incorporated into the project to promote sustainability and skill-sharing.
- We will actively encourage local community volunteers to participate, creating a space for connection, learning, and wellbeing in the maintenance of the orchard and/or assisting in developing the vision.

4. Educational Opportunities

- We plan to collaborate with **Edinburgh College**, located across the road from our site, to:
 - Invite horticulture and cookery students to volunteer. Potentially we could call upon any graphic design students
 - Explore opportunities for informal knowledge exchange or workshops in gardening and healthy cooking.
- Clients hope to create a **community recipe book**, showcasing simple dishes made using the harvest, reinforcing the value of growing and cooking your own food.
- In creating the food stall, it can encourage the Green Thumbs group and other volunteers to practice money handling skills.

Timeline

The project will be completed within 12 months. Key phases:

- **Months 1–2:** Site preparation, planter construction, soil delivery, initial planting. (season suitability dependent on start date of this phase)
- **Months 3–8:** Ongoing growing and maintenance, harvesting, recipe testing, orchard planting.

- **Months 9–12:** Produce stall setup, community outreach, recipe book launch, evaluation.

Budget

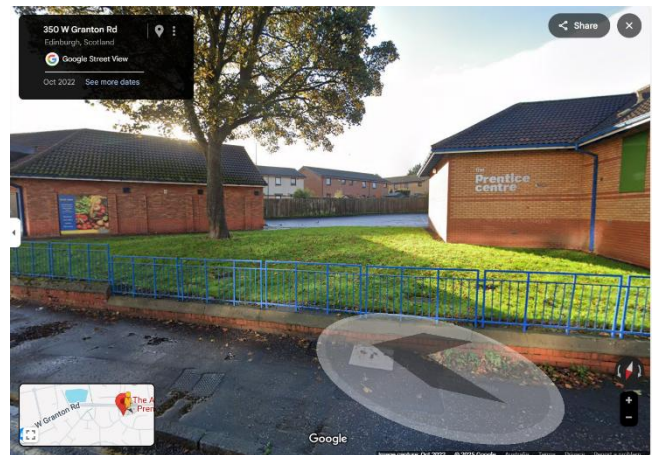
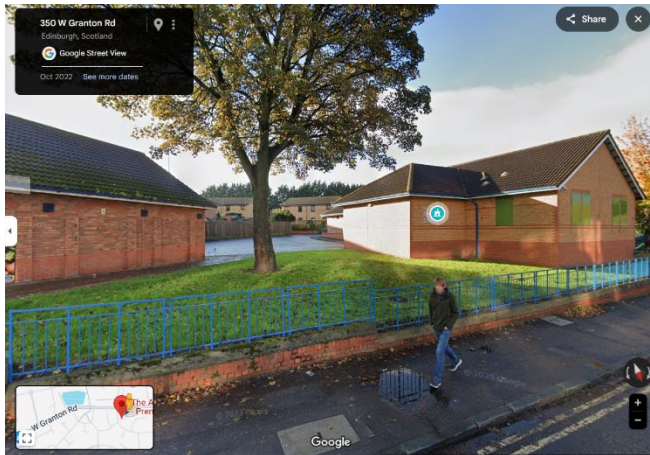
Item	Cost Estimate
Compost, soil, seeds	£1,000
Tools and gloves (accessible tools)	£600
Planter materials (recycled and new)	£600
Orchard trees and signage	£1,100
Volunteer expenses and transport	£500
Printing and materials for recipe book	£400
Stall construction & signage	£800
Total	£5,000

Sustainability

- Use of recycled materials (planters, signage).
- Development of long-term food sources (e.g., orchard).
- Engagement of future volunteers and community partners (e.g., Edinburgh College).
- Skills built will continue to benefit clients and the wider community beyond the project term.

Picture references

Small orchard space proposed- publicly accessible, land owned by The Action Group:



How the public can access the space- stall to be built/placed against the building- public facing to encourage engagement:



Path access from the main road/by the shop



Access from the car park, often used a thoroughfare by locals walking to the college or shops across the road.

Indoor courtyard space specifically for the groups vegetable and herb growing- to then be distributed to the public:

