

Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust

The Crannie
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Project Name: Community Growing Collective (Continuation 2025/26)

Start Date: Summer 2025

Overview:

This plan aims to lay out the steps to continue the current Community Growing Collective. The current project now takes place via weekly gardening sessions, but has used all start-up funding (£1000) granted by ECCAN in 2024. Partnerships and community engagements have been made, and we are hoping to receive funding to allow this to become a consistent part of the EOTDT programme. This plan outlines the collective from Summer 2025 through to Spring 2026

Goals

- 1. What are the main objectives of this project?**
- Please ensure they are SMART goals - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound

S	M	A	R	T
1. To continue improve access to green spaces and community	Impact will be measured via a photo and video log, feedback forms, and	Potential to widen scope as time goes on. Partner organisations will be able to	See Food and Wellbeing sections of EOTDT Strategy document	1. Apply for further funding for possible Freelance Growing Coordinator

gardens in Old Town 2. To increase skills and socialising opportunities of participants 3. To grow more fresh food in the old town which can be shared with residents	informal feedback.	request volunteer help. Wellbeing Coordinator to lead the project, assisted by the Community Development Manager		2. Receive feedback from volunteers and partnerships 3. Use the warmer months to transform the West Port Garden and to assist in the Scottish Veterans Residencies garden.
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Specifications

What are the requirements for the project? Please include information on accessibility, marketing.

- Requires additional funding
- Steering group meetings each month to keep the project running smoothly; these will be hosted at the Crannie.
- Advertising to all initial interested parties whose interest was lost
- Weekly gardening sessions at each location.
- West Port Garden is on terraced levels, with one level being accessible on street.

Scope

What is the scope of the project? Population numbers, staff capacity, sessions created etc. How wide is your project reaching?

- We currently have 20 volunteers.

- Residents at the Scottish Veterans' Residencies will be encouraged to join the sessions in their garden space.
- Local people who come to the Crannie's free community lunch, and those who use the free community pantry will be able to use/eat any produce grown.
- West Port Garden is publicly accessible and in an area of the city with high footfall, so the benefits of its transformation are extremely wide reaching.
- SVR residents will benefit from the gardens being more aesthetically pleasing

Timeframe

What time periods will major pieces of work take place? How do they relate to each other and staff time?

June 2025 - Purchasing equipment and resources

June 2025 - Preparing beds, planting

July-August 2025 - Putting additional resources in gardens

September onwards - harvesting, continuing to maintain, additional planting

Ongoing evaluation throughout project.

Responsibility & Accountability

Who is responsible for the execution of the project?

With additional funding, it is hoped that a Growing Coordinator could be hired. Until then, the Community Wellbeing Coordinator will take a lead on this project, assisted by the Community Development Manager.

Who is accountable for the project?

Staff at EOTDT: Community Wellbeing Coordinator, Community Development Manager

Partners: Iain Black and Michael Lister of West Port Garden. Martha Moloney of Scottish Veterans' Residencies.

Milestones

1. What are some key points throughout the life of the project.
 - May/June 2025: Freelance Growing Coordinator hired
 - Summer 2025: Tending to gardens, transforming spaces
 - September 2025: Harvesting and using produce
 - Autumn/Winter 2025: continued maintenance and prep for winter season
 - Winter/Spring 2026: continued maintenance and prep for spring
 - Late Spring 2026: Celebration of the project, the work that has been done, and the return of good weather

Budget

Please provide a full itemised budget breakdown	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Freelance Food Growing Coordinator	£20 per hour 4 hours per week for 6 months = £1950
Equipment/Resources	£1500
Project Management Costs	£1500
Volunteer Costs eg refreshments, travel, PPE	£100
Total requested:	£4850

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment for full project: [Growing Project Risk Assessment](#)

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring will take place both informally and formally throughout the duration of the project. Note will be taken of the numbers of volunteers, food grown, food used etc, so that totals can be created at the end. Feedback forms will be taken near the end of the project. Additionally, a photo/video diary has been created so that participants can look back on the work they achieved.

These will be stored on the private EOTDT Google drive.