

Ledbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Consultation Template

Date: 27/09/21	Name of organisation: Haygrove Ledbury Community Garden
Persons completing form (with roles in organisation and contact details)	Chris Millson - Sustainability Manager at Haygrove, and Trustee at Haygrove Community Gardens Charity.
Estimate of numbers represented by the group	Ledbury Community Garden, in year 5, could have 30 – 60 regular users, 10 – 20 volunteer support workers, and 300 – 600 school children hosted since launch.
Key items to comment on	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please give a summary of what you would like to achieve in Ledbury re a community garden.• Which area/areas of land do think may be suitable for a community garden• At what level is your planning currently• What timescale do you envisage for implementation• Do you envisage partnering• What are the challenges you need to overcome which Ledbury Town Council may be able to help with (given our confirmation of support)• Anything else you would like to add including any drawings, size of area needed and what infrastructure access you might need (such as a water supply)
Summary of comments <u>Project objectives:</u> Ledbury Community Garden will be run by the Haygrove Community Gardens Charity (Reg. No. 1176183). The project will be established to <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Promote and protect health and wellbeing.▪ Provide meaningful daytime activity, education, and work experience in horticulture.▪ Provide opportunities for outdoor learning, and advance education in subjects relating to horticultural practice, conservation, food, and nutrition.▪ Reduce loneliness. Reduce isolation by creating opportunities for communities to access green spaces close to home.▪ Increase public access to maintained green space. Enhance biodiversity.▪ Produce healthy food for those in need. <u>Where might the project be located?</u> The project will locate in (or on the outskirts of) Ledbury, close to Haygrove's Redbank office. Ideally, we would require between 2 and 3 acres. Our preferred site is a field south of the A438, between the Leadon and the Riverside Park. However, our exploration of this option has been based on the incorrect assumption that it is owned by the County Council.	

Ledbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Consultation Template

Another suitable site lies immediately east of the B4216, on land we believe to have been deemed unsuitable for residential development.

At what level is our planning currently?

We have established communications with key stakeholder groups including the Ledbury Neighbourhood Development Plan and have won support from another business (Abel & Cole).

Upon confirmation of a site being available we would proceed with the design of an action plan, a budget, further grant applications, and the employment of a Project Manager.

Timescale for implementation?

The lack of a suitable site has delayed our progress and we are behind schedule. However, we aim to secure a site in 2021 and to immediately commence preparations for an official launch in 2022.

Partners?

We would happily enter a partnership which allows the Haygrove Community Gardens Charity to retain overall leadership of the project, and ultimate responsibility for delivery.

We have already partnered with one of Haygrove's customer (Abel & Cole) who have committed 5 years' worth of support.

Other key partners could include landowners, local businesses, and other local charities for whom the site could provide opportunities.

How can Ledbury Town Council support?

The Council could help by acquiring a suitable piece of land (such as those described above) and making this available to our Charity.

Other requirements

Like any community garden project, we would benefit from water and electricity. However, we are also aware of how projects might get started and build up this infrastructure over time. The lack of such infrastructure is not an insurmountable barrier.

Location and access are important considerations, and we would need a site that is accessible to those walking from town. We would also need space for parking.

OK to publish report with all information or does it need to be anonymised? (the Inspector will need to see key evidence like this)

YES

Ledbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Consultation Template

Conclusions and recommendations

- We are looking forward to building a new Community Garden for Ledbury, a well-maintained green space accessible to all, for health, wellbeing, education.
- We bring a spirit of collaboration, experience from other projects, the support of local business (Haygrove) and one of its key customers (Abel & Cole).
- But importantly, we lack access to a suitable site, and it is in this challenge that we believe support from the Council will be most valued.