

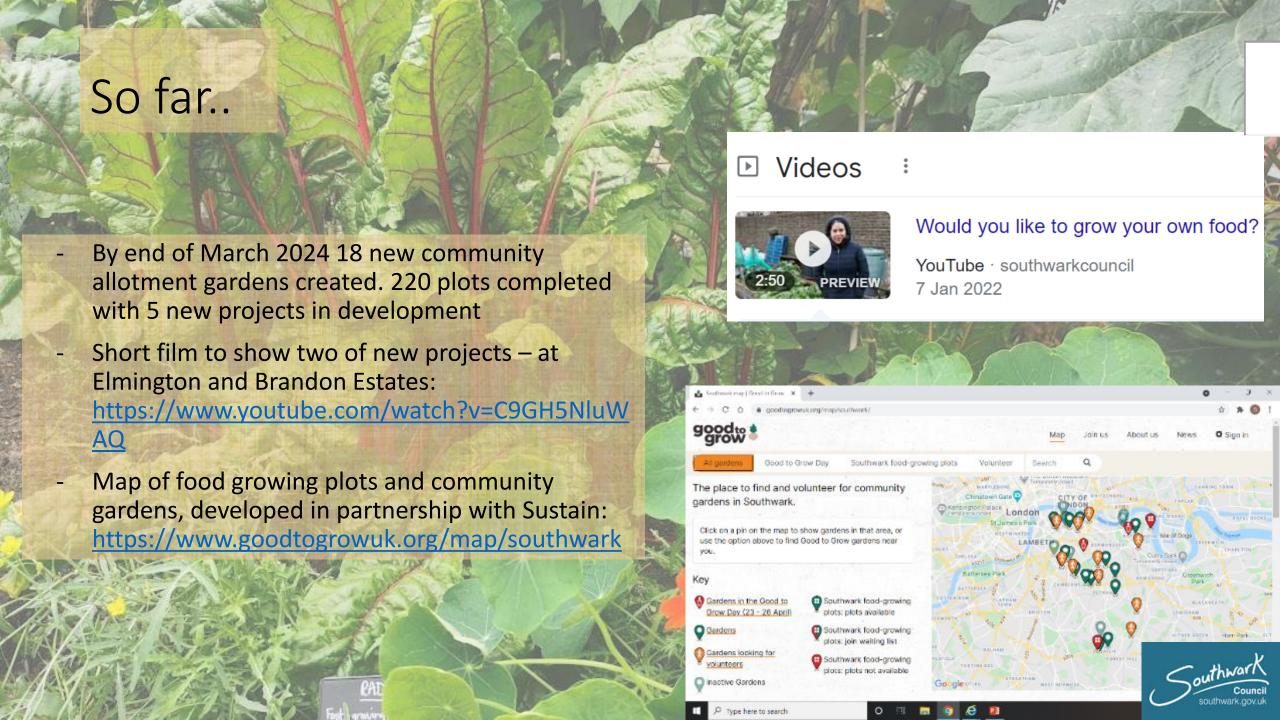
What the role covers

- Main point of contact within council for existing community growers and new enquiries about community gardening and food growing
- Supporting the network of growers via e-newsletter, informal introductions, linking to existing networks and mapping
- Organising networking events, development of a working group
- Increase food growing opportunities on estates, focus on building resilient and sustainable groups and projects, and give advice to others in the borough
- Community engagement link for other related projects such as reduced mowing trials and composting
- Strategic development promoting community gardening and food growing within the council – working with Public Health, Ecologist, Planning, New Homes, Grounds Maintenance, Resident Services, Climate Change, Housing teams









Training

Food Growing Training

New sites receive monthly sessions with a local Community Gardener to bring new groups together and increase skills for new growers. Groups can apply for Getting Involved funding to continue to have sessions after year one.

Community Organising Training

Two free day courses funded by Natural England to increase organising skills of community gardeners in Feb and March 2024; Introduction to Community Organising and Action for Change.



Network building

- Support a borough-wide Community Gardening network
- Who? Everyone involved in community gardening or food growing in Southwark
- How? E-newsletter, SLACK channel, introducing projects to each other, and networking events
- *Outcomes?* The network promotes peer-to-peer support to enable residents to share experience and good practice
- Engaged group who advocate for and engage with more greening opportunities in the borough
- Connects gardeners with council and external initiatives related to climate change, mental and physical wellbeing



Network events

13 July 2023

- Listening event at Red Cross Garden
- 26 attendees
- One of the outcomes was the ask for council support for a community gardening working group to focus on relevant topics

14 October 2023

- Community Gardening Working Party at the Paper Garden in Surrey Quays
- 40 attendees
- The working group focus was on solutions to dealing with green waste and increasing composting and made several interesting recommendations



Composting Pilot 2024

Compost Doctor

The Compost Dr will go around the borough to inform and train residents at community gardens / allotments on how to compost and improve their composting within their unique space. Launch at St Francis Park 15th March 2024

Community Compost Hubs

These hubs will act as demonstration sites for others to visit and learn from. The composting hubs will be provided with new compost bins, tools and equipment and a garden shredder. They will also have support from a Compost Dr who will train all the participants. Collaboration with Grounds Maintenance and Trees team for hyper local materials



Countisbury Estate





Melford Court









Brandon Estate















Camberwell Triangle





Rouel Road









Rouel Road











Gloucester Grove





Rockingham Estate















