

## Sopwell Community Garden Design Sessions

During February and March 2021, Grow Community – Sopwell attended a series of eight 1-hour Zoom sessions with the RHS Community Outreach Team to design our community garden.

Here are a selection of activities and useful links from these sessions. We'd love other members of the community who could not attend the Zoom sessions to also get involved.

### Polls:

We'd love you to contribute to our polls if you haven't already. You can view them on Facebook. You can [email us](#) your opinions separately if you'd prefer.

*Who is the garden for?* <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrowSopwell/permalink/840619036495041>

*What kind of style would you like for the community garden?*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrowSopwell/permalink/840740879816190>

### Mood board:

You can view the 'Ideas for the Garden' mood board we created for (apologies it's low resolution). Anything to add? Please [email us](#): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrowSopwell/permalink/844539266103018>

### Site survey:

You can view our site survey [here](#).

It includes consideration of access and surrounding area, aspect, microclimates, soil, pollution, wildlife surveys and more.

### Some inspiring videos:

Incredible Edible Todmorden video explaining how they began creating edible planting in public green spaces: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4du9WlbVgPk>

RHS community gardening video, showing benefits of gardening:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI94f9\\_4cBw&list=PLXEVpDvKn91zZyTeUt1-prLXJh-B-WiVG&index=14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI94f9_4cBw&list=PLXEVpDvKn91zZyTeUt1-prLXJh-B-WiVG&index=14)

A community garden in action - a school garden but linked to community garden (Elgan centre):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17XuZazdCXc&t=6s>

What flowers for bees? Watch a video on helping bees in the garden:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUOCgWgVPyM&list=PLXEVpDvKn91yCzfxoV4pZaYXzw48vEfBq&index=6>

Also check out this section of their website: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

## Quizzes:

Benefits of Greenspaces: You can look at the quiz we played (and answers): <https://create.kahoot.it/share/benefits-of-greenspaces/e7308cd6-7259-4f49-a21c-988d0e6a13b7>

Bird songs: <https://youtu.be/1cptXc8Goi0>

## Garden Design “Fuzzy Felts”:

We’d really love you to have a play around with the garden site plan we’ve drawn up and the “Fuzzy Felt” shapes to Blu Tac on. You can make other shapes too if you'd like.

The site plan can be printed out from these four images: [Site plan 1](#), [Site plan 2](#), [Site plan 3](#), [Site plan 4](#).

You'll have to trim the site plan pages a little bit and stick them together. There is also a picture of what the finished site plan should look like [here](#).

The site was measured very roughly by Kate and her daughters, so don't judge her if it's a bit out! Have a play around and send any photos through [by email](#).

It's good for us to get lots of ideas so I do hope you can have a go!

Each square is 1 metre squared.

We're very happy to print out copies for collection, or even happy to deliver them to you, so please just shout if that option is better for you.

### ***Please note:***

The garden will be created in phases, with phase I being the first 10 metres from the side of Berners Drive (furthest away from the play area). Phase II will be started later on this season (adding an additional 5 metres length to the garden), and phase III will be kept as a long grass and wildflower area for now. Please design phase I and II areas for now.

In **phase I** we will be positioning two raised beds, some ground beds and a 3mx1m long compost unit with attached water butt. In **phase II** we will be adding two more raised beds and bench and more ground beds.

We did a poll on what the **top five** things to include in the garden were in the first phase, to give you some further inspiration:

1. Raised beds growing easy vegetables and fruits
2. Natural areas of long grass, wildflowers and habitat hotels for birds, bees, and other wildlife
3. Seating/gathering area to bring people together
4. Compost and water capture area for sustainable gardening and demo/information for community
5. Sunflower beds/border to engage local children