

Summary of North Felixstowe Green Space Stewardship and Food Resilience workshop

Held on Zoom:

7th May 2024, 4-5pm

On Tuesday the 7th May 2024, LDA Design and East Suffolk Council hosted a workshop exploring green space stewardship for the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood project.

LDA invited several community groups relating to the topic of green space stewardship. Some groups were unable attend, however representatives from the North Felixstowe Country Park Group and the Cowpasture Allotments attended the workshop.

The session began with the lead facilitator outlining the agenda for the workshop, before LDA Design provided a presentation updating the attendees with the latest green space strategy for the neighbourhood. LDA also shared some insight from the second Citizens Panel session, where the group had the opportunity to rank their most important recommendations regarding open spaces and the landscape.

From 4.20pm onwards, LDA asked the group to firstly identify the current challenges they had regarding green space stewardship and food resilience. Next, they asked the group to identify potential opportunities for improving green space stewardship and food resilience because of the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood.

The current challenges to green space stewardship and food resilience were organised in the following themes:

- Information and public involvement –
 - Attendees recognised there is an opportunity for the public and the council to share and exchange ideas around the green space strategy.
 - The council to provide further clarity to the public about the proposed management and maintenance of future green spaces.
 - A greater level of local public involvement with food resilience was further suggested whilst other participants identified that the green spaces should serve a population wider than Felixstowe.
- Land Uses
 - The representatives from the allotment group outlined the poor levels of security around the allotments and the challenge of making food growing sites 'over-public'.
- Funding and Council Resources
 - Funding allocated for maintenance was identified as a challenge by the attendees.
 - Fears over resources for the future stewardship of green spaces and the council resources required to manage the size of the new neighbourhood.
 - Members of the Country Park Group outlined a lack of physical facilities for volunteers as a challenge and suggested the management structure of green spaces should be created in collaboration with the public

The future opportunities for green space stewardship and food resilience were grouped in the following themes:

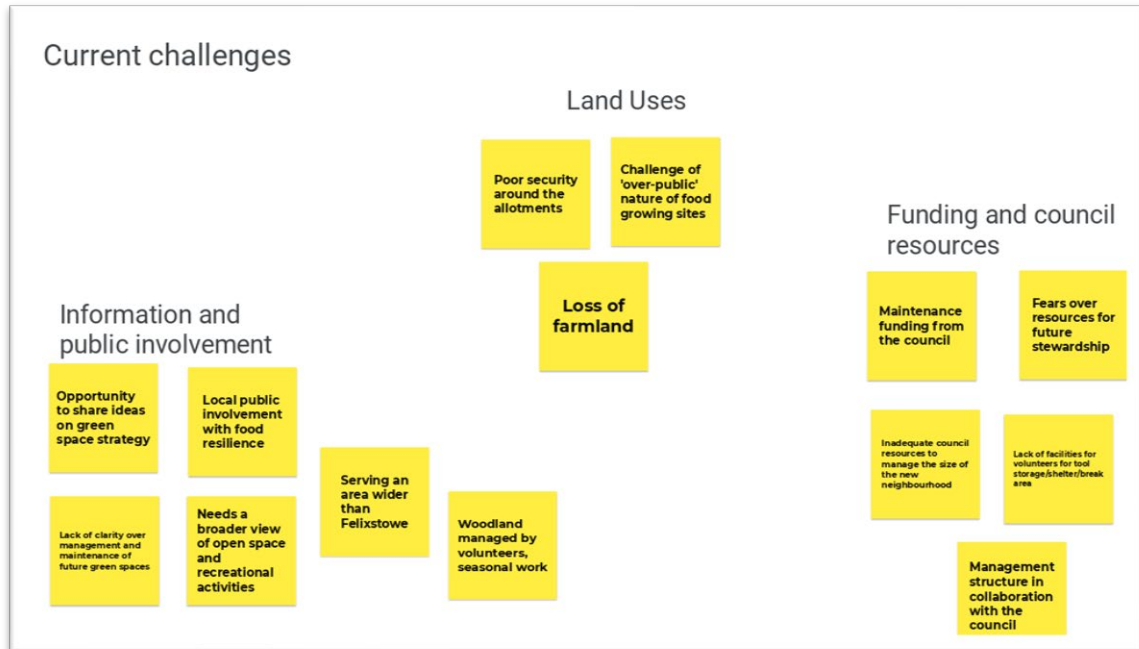
- Funding and council resources
 - Opportunities for a dedicated stewardship role within the council was suggested.
 - There was also recognition that the council might create more funding within the new neighbourhood to maintain the size of the new scheme.
 - Some of the group suggested to look at local examples for successful stewardship models.
 - Finally, the group also recognised the opportunity to provide more information to the public on what the specific maintenance requirements for the new site.

- Facilities and assets
 - An opportunity to improve the existing Cowpasture Allotments
 - Making more spaces at the new allotments available to local residents of the neighbourhood and the wider town.
 - A community orchard was also identified as an opportunity as well as other multifunctional green spaces.

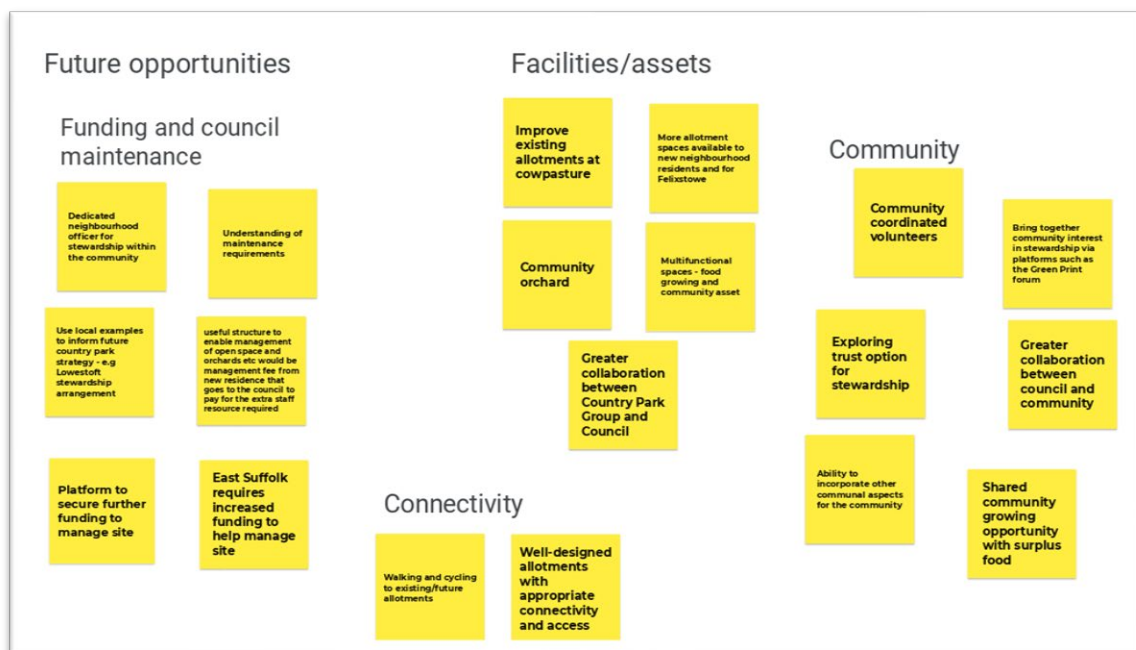
- Connectivity
 - Ensuring that new green spaces, including the allotments were easily connected by foot and bicycle to the new neighbourhood.

- Community
 - Community coordinated volunteers and the possibility of incorporating community spaces into the neighbourhood.
 - The group further expressed the opportunity to use local community groups to galvanise community interest or to explore whether a community trust could be set up to help stewardship requirements.

The session concluded with a brief round of clarifications for the group and some information with how the findings from the workshop would be used – informing future design decisions by the masterplanning team. The facilitators also agreed there was an opportunity to have further discussions with both groups involved.



1. Jamboard of the current challenges facing greenspace stewardship and food resilience.



2. Jamboard of the future opportunities facing greenspace stewardship and food resilience.