



Food Durham: Our 1st Year

Dr Liz Charles
Project Coordinator

Annual Gathering 17/09/15



Menu

- A little bit of history
- Big Vision, Local Action:
 - Key Achievements, including
 - Growing Durham

How did we get here?



2014 -
2020

Sustainable Local Food Strategy



County Durham
Food Partnership

The Co Durham Food Charter



Co Durham Food Partnership



Partnership Board

**Food &
Health**

**Public Sector
Procurement**

**Community
Growing**

General Membership

Big Vision, Local Action



Purpose:

To work together for a more equitable, sustainable, fairer food system for County Durham providing access to food that is healthy for people and the planet.

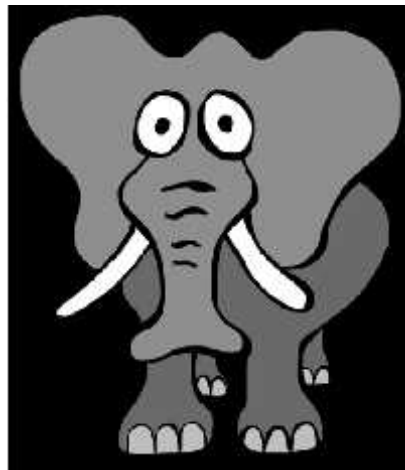
Food System Change!

Big Vision, Local Action



Growing Durham

Local Food Chain Study



Procurement

Sustainable Fish City

Local Food Chain Study



- To find out if the local food supply chain for business to business trade can be improved
- Unmet demand for locally produced food in some sectors e.g. hospitality, eateries
- Difficult route to market for producers of local food
- Will report by the end of the year

Public Sector Procurement



Sub-group meets quarterly

- Mini-conference July 1st – celebration of good practice locally and further afield; learning and exchange of ideas



Public Sector Procurement



- Co Durham is getting a reputation for good practice
- DCC sustainable buying standards for food published
- Durham University trail blazing work with local suppliers
- DCC spent £868,843 on direct food product purchases in 2014/15.
- Durham Uni spends £3.8m on food/yr

Sustainable Fish City Campaign (Durham)



National campaign for cities to buy, serve, eat and promote only sustainable fish. See:

<http://www.sustainweb.org/sustainablefishcity/>

- Need to achieve a star in all of 5 categories to be recognised as a Sustainable Fish City
- Durham has stars for:
 - ✓ Local Authorities and Schools
 - ✓ Hospitals
 - ✓ Universities & Higher Education
 - ✓ Restaurants & Iconic Businesses

We are in second place in the UK! One star to go!

Growing Durham



To create a network of new and diverse community growing schemes across County Durham

- More communities will produce some of their own food
- Access to fresh food will be improved in areas where this is a challenge
- More people will have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from food production



Growing Durham: How we work



- Identify stakeholders in communities that would like a community growing project
- Help communities to design and develop new growing projects
- Support existing / fledgling projects where appropriate
- Bring people together and facilitate planning
- Provide access to skills, knowledge, networks and training

Growing Durham



AND

revitalise the Community Growing Group – starting today!

Sharing

Training

Visits

Seed & Plant Swops

Doing something new

Future Challenges



- Longer-term financial stability
- Maintaining interest and momentum over the long term – big changes will not happen quickly
- Unknown external factors

Contact Details



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DIG ON FOR VICTORY



Ministry of Agriculture

On 3rd October 1939 Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith Minister for Agriculture announced what was to become one of the most memorable government campaigns ever.

In 1938 Britain imported 55 million tons of food, food for the next six years would have to be grown at home.

October 1940 saw the official launch of the new Dig for Victory

By winter of 1944 the gardening publications were Running out of steam. The Government created a series its new series of Allotment Garden Guides.



Gardening in the 1940's

Garden plot 90' x 30' Approx. 10 sq rods, poles or perches

- Provide food 12 months of the year.
- What?
- Where?
- When
- Crop rotation included.



Finchale College
70th Anniversary Garden
RHS Flower Show Tatton Park



The show field
at Tatton Park.

Our plot
168 miles from
Finchale



Vegetables grown at
the College all
transported to
Tatton Park
175 miles



Still going strong

Beetroot 'Bulls Blood' pre 1900

Cabbage 'Golden Acre' 1889

Carrot 'Early Nantes' 1867

Cauliflower 'All Year Round' 1933

Leek 'Mussleburgh' 1824

Lettuce 'Little Gem' 1880

Marrow 'Long Green Bush' 1904

Onion 'Ailsa Craig' 1887

Parsnip 'Tender and True' 1897

Peas 'Klevdon Wonder' 1938

Runner Bean 'Scarlet Emperor' 1906

Turnip 'Manchester Market' 1821

Malus 'Beauty of Bath' - 1864
Malus 'James Grieve' - 1893









Awarded Silver-Gilt





Does vegetable growing pay?

Edible weight of vegetables from plot

Spring 11lbs weekly

Summer 12lbs weekly

Autumn 15lbs weekly

Winter 20lbs weekly