

Viewfield Gardens

Community Gardening at the
UofG Gilmorehill Campus

Background

- Success of 'shed building' event and environmental festival during Fresher's week

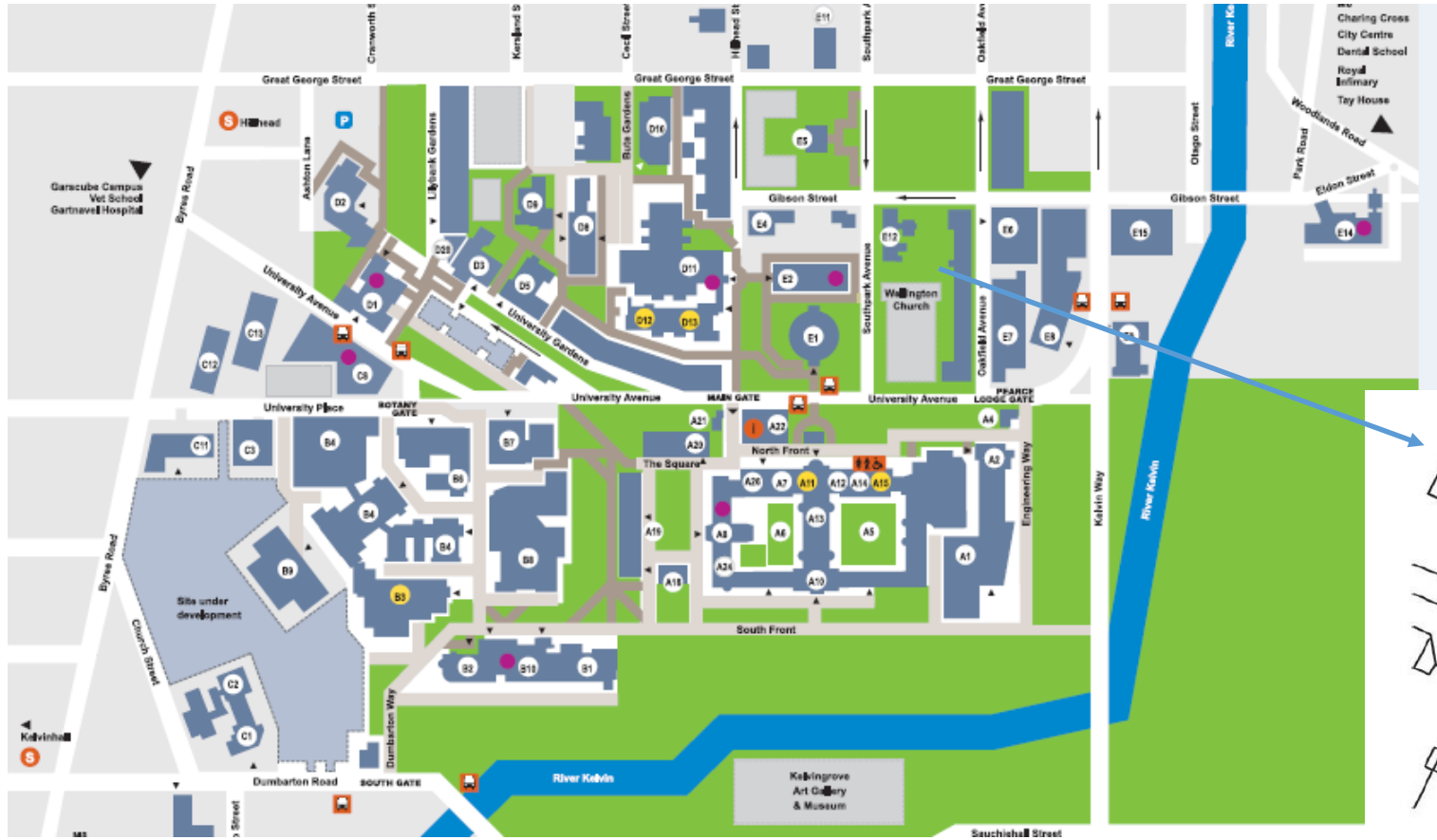


- Initial proposal drafted by GUEST biodiversity promoter in 2015
- Buy-in from senior Estates management
- Buy-in from staff in adjacent buildings
- Small amount of funding from CSGNT and 'Grow for it', rest from Estates

Policy context

- University Sustainability Strategy
- Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Sustainable Food Strategy and Action Plan (under development)
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Health and Wellbeing (mental health agenda)

Site



Site Overview



Original vision

- Community garden in the heart of the campus
- Food growing (for fun and for Hospitality Services)
- Outdoor space for teaching and learning
- Outdoor space for events
- Outdoor space for relaxing
- Enhance campus biodiversity

Before!



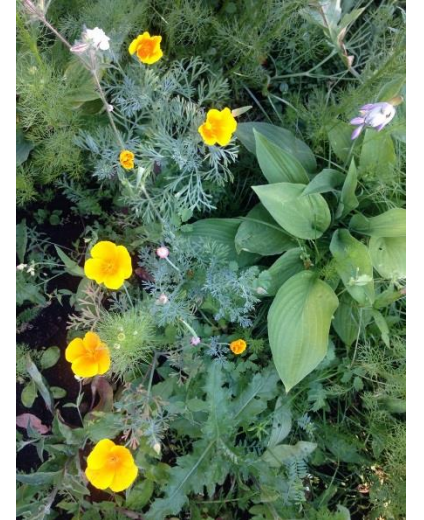
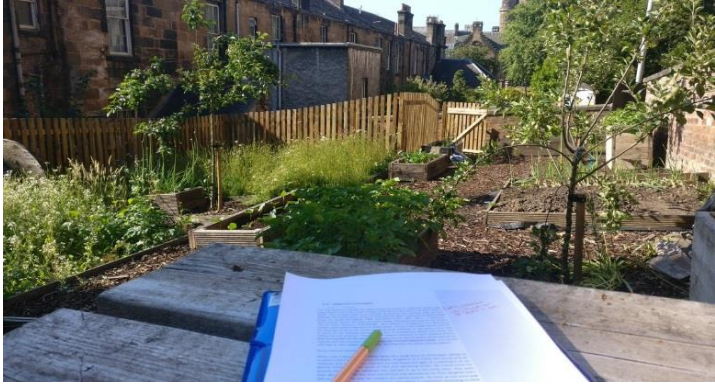
Lots of hard work



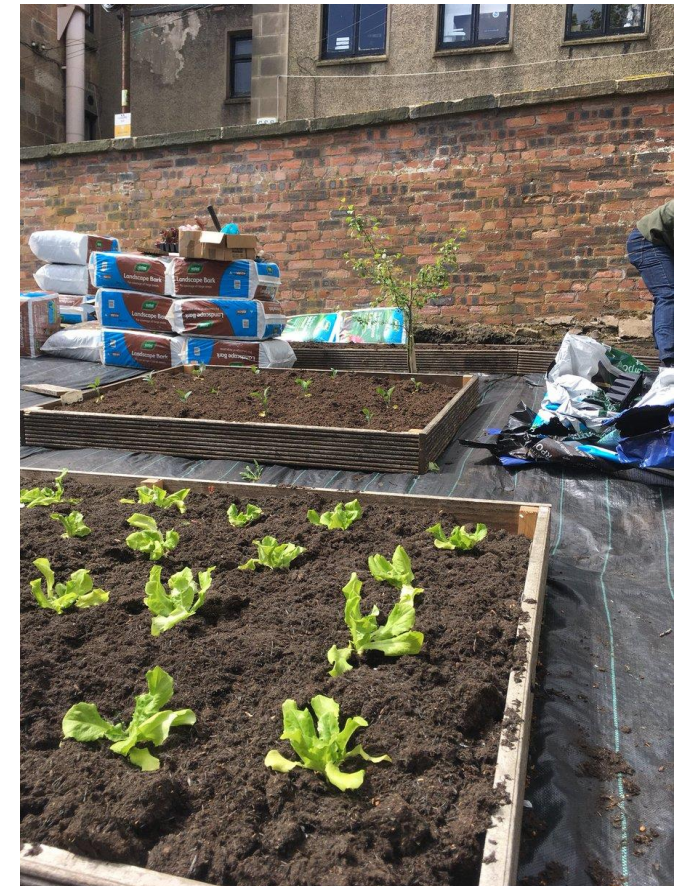
Unexpected interest



Current progress



Links with Hospitality Services



Beekeeping on campus



Problems faced

- Consultation with staff in adjacent buildings (wider buy-in)
- Health & Safety risks
 - Crumbling walls
 - Uneven and sloping ground (fine for gardening activities, but not 'events')
 - Drops approaching the buildings
 - Need for risk assessment
 - Bees
- Access issues (rutted lane and steps down into gardens)
- Planning (strategic and at a single session level)
- Support from Grounds team (budget, tools, joinery)
- Watering!
- Victim of success; demand for more sessions for staff and UG students

Key Learnings & Future Plans

- Enthusiasm over gardening knowledge!
- Expansion....
- Regular gardening sessions for staff and UG students