

Date

1st April 2021

To whom it may concern,

During my time as a Forth ward councillor, the Granton Community Gardeners (GCG) have been involved in a range of plots and projects across the local area, working to improve green spaces and community wellbeing.

The Community Garden at 10 Wardieburn Road offers residents the opportunity to get together to prepare and eat the produce grown there through community food initiative in partnership with other local organisations. The many pieces of land that GCG tend are invaluable for both the physical and mental health of those that enjoy them as places to relax, meet people and just get outdoors, especially over the last year of isolation and restrictions because of COVID-19. They are not only well used for recreation of this kind but also by young and old locals alike to get their hands dirty and learn new skills.

I know that GCG have gone to pains to include everyone with an interest in the garden and to ensure that their offering reaches all those who want to be a part of it. This is a group that is truly community spirited and will work across stakeholder groups and agencies so that no one is left out.

The transfer of the Community Garden 10 Wardieburn Road into community ownership would enable the GCG to expand how they use this site and future facilities. This would benefit the local community hugely from the enhanced communal experience that this would allow for, as well as the increase in shared ownership and knowledge that is at the heart of community wealth building.

Granton Community Garden has gone from strength to strength thanks to the combined efforts of all the many individuals, families, friends and neighbours that have invested their time and love in it over the last few years. This is community empowerment in action and I believe that commitment of this kind is deserving of the stability that a Community Asset Transfer would provide.

I warmly welcome GCG's application for the Community Asset Transfer of the Granton Community Garden and strongly support it.



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Kind Regards



Councillor Eleanor Bird
Forth Ward