



Deidre Brock MP  
Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North and Leith

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**To: City of Edinburgh Council**

I write in support of **Granton Community Gardeners** in their **Asset Transfer Request** for ownership of their **Community Garden** at **10 Wardieburn Road**. The group is based in my Edinburgh North and Leith constituency and so I am of course very well acquainted with all the remarkable work they've done in the local community since they first put a spade into the soil there over a decade ago.

The group began as neighbours who saw the opportunity to turn an area of unused grass surface in their street into a space for planting and growing. This patch of land became a thriving community garden, growing flowers, fruit and vegetables. Along the way grew friendship, volunteering opportunities, cultivation expertise, community social events and organisational skills, and regular community meal events.

The group became a registered charity in 2017 and in 2018 expanded into the gap-site of a demolished building. With huge and willing voluntary effort, it was transformed into their existing base; an area not just for growing, but for congregating, for wellbeing, and for hosting many other local groups. Their efforts during the pandemic in helping to feed and support the local community offers further testament to their unwavering commitment to the people of Granton.

I have no doubt **Granton Community Gardeners** have the skills, drive, and determination to make a huge success of the asset transfer. Their application is being prepared and supported by the Scottish Land Fund, the local community is being engaged in driving their business plan, and they have commissioned architects to produce a feasibility study for maximising use of the site. The group and the site is of key local importance; an asset transfer would fully empower them to secure the garden for the community well into the future, encompassing not just food growth and meals, but educational, personal and social wellbeing, and community help, advice and support.

Yours sincerely,

Deidre Brock MP

Constituency Office, 166 Great Junction Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5LJ

Tel: 0131 555 7009

[deidre.brock.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:deidre.brock.mp@parliament.uk)