



Queen Margaret University  
EDINBURGH

Thursday 14 October 2021

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**To whom it may concern**

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Dear Sir / Madam

**Asset Transfer of Community Garden at 10 Wardieburn Road, Edinburgh**

I am writing to support the formal asset transfer of the community garden at 10 Wardieburn Road, Edinburgh to Granton Community Gardeners.

I am the Programme Leader for the MSc Gastronomy programme at Edinburgh's Queen Margaret University. Each year, I take my students to the community garden to show them the inspirational and transformational impact that it has had on the local community.

My students are taught that the community garden does more than just produce local food in the Granton community, which in itself would be good enough reason for the asset transfer. They learn that the space supports a wide range of activities that support community development and social inclusion. The garden brings people together, and in doing so creates and nurtures social relationships, combats social exclusion and loneliness, and provides local people with an opportunity to get outside, take exercise, learn new skills and feed each other.

Since the previously-derelict site has been transformed through voluntary community effort, it has become a valuable resource for educators such as me, but also a welcoming and accessible space for people, biodiversity, connection and celebration. What happens there is inspirational and its many social and environmental benefits cannot be understated.

The asset transfer would allow Granton Community Gardeners to attract funding to develop the site, but also increase the positive impact that spins out from it, so it has my full support.

Kind regards

**STAN BLACKLEY**