

Grow Timsbury

Project Plan



Grow Timsbury Project Plan

1. Introduction	1
2. About	1
3. Our vision	2
4. Our mission and how we will achieve it	3
5. Operating model	4
6. What we have achieved so far	4
7. What we want to do next	5
8. Priority actions for 2022-2023 with operational and financial forecasts	5
9. Income and expenditure	8
10. Managing risk	8
11. Legal incorporation	8
12. People	9
13. Contacts	9

1. Introduction

Grow Timsbury has its origins in a previous successful village CIC supporting local food and food producers. A combination of factors led this group, Taste of Timsbury, to seek to broaden its focus from local food production to local food growing in a sustainable and nature-friendly way. Not least among these factors was the Coronavirus pandemic which brought into sharp focus the benefits of access to green space and nature for physical and mental wellbeing. Alongside this the twin challenges of the climate and biodiversity emergencies clarified the need for action to increase resilience to climate effects and seek to allow for nature restoration.

The acquisition and development of a Community growing space (in short supply locally and in the Somer Valley more widely) became to be the logical route to take to meet these challenges locally, support health and wellbeing in the community and also empower people and be a catalyst for further change on a personal, local and wider scale, hence Grow Timsbury.

2. About Grow Timsbury

Grow Timsbury was formed in 2021. It evolved from a previous group 'Taste of Timsbury' and was developed to widen the scope from championing local food to growing local food. The new group grew around the aim of acquiring a piece of land in the village of Timsbury to be used as a growing space to benefit the whole community. The growing activity would aim to improve biodiversity, support and nurture people's wellbeing and mental health, celebrate the heritage of our local area and provide opportunities for training and education in its widest sense. The group was established as a grassroots response to the urgent overarching challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

3. Our Vision

Our vision is to create a community focus around sustainability and climate resilience. We envisage a creative, healthy, active community growing site rooted in sustainability, empowerment and kindness and open to all. We see the growing site itself acting as a hub to spread sustainability, wellbeing and resilience throughout the community.

4. Our Mission

Our mission is to acquire an area of land to be used for community growing and to maximise the use of the land for sustainable food growing, biodiversity, physical and mental wellbeing and sharing knowledge, skills and best practice. We will work with the community at all times, to develop and manage the land to support members of the community to access and benefit from whatever way serves them best, in line with the overall aims of the project.

We will achieve our mission by:

- Seeking and securing a piece of suitable land either through purchase or leasing (for a minimum of five years).
- Enabling the development of the land into a multi-use community growing space accessible to all and meeting the needs of all members of the community, particularly vulnerable and harder to reach groups, to grow healthy, low cost, low carbon, wildlife-friendly food.
- Working to secure the funding for all phases of the project from land acquisition/lease through development and towards long-term financial sustainability of the project incorporating income generation/enterprise as part of the project.

- Working collaboratively within current networks and structures and with similar local projects, partners and stakeholders both formal and informal, to support our mission and achieve our aims.
- Educating in the widest sense, sharing skills, knowledge and best practice through a variety of media and activities (events, courses, meetings etc) and communicating openly and transparently through a range of tools (newsletters, website, social media etc).

5. Operational Model

Grow Timsbury is a community project set up and run by experienced volunteers and formalised through registration as a Community Interest Company (CIC). It sits alongside similar community based growing projects such as Corston Community Orchard, Batheaston Growers and Blooming Whiteway. Whilst the initial group of volunteers has been small, this is now expanding, and we envisage that the project will always take its direction from the local community so as to ensure that its agenda is focused on the needs of the local community and is accountable and transparent.

We aim to create an organisation that is sustainable in all senses of the word, being well-funded and managed in such a way that it delivers our objectives to the benefit of all members of the community. Faced with the climate emergency we wish to focus on making practical headway and devote all our resources as far as possible towards the delivery of our aims, relying on a light touch structure and voluntary expertise wherever possible.

6. What we have achieved so far

- Formed as a CIC 10709916
- Actively pursued opportunities to secure land
- Had meetings and formed links with similar local groups (Corston Community Orchard, Midsomer Norton Town Trust
- Communicated with Somer Valley Revisited, local Natural England officer, B&NES (Millie Carmichael – Local Food Links)

- Partnered informally with a village seasonal veg box scheme. This has included joint promotion and a monthly food tasting stall as part of the Conygre Hall mini-market. The stall and recipe leaflets produced have provided opportunities to engage with people more widely about ideas and aims of Grow Timsbury
- Submitted applications for funding
- Developed a website and other social media promotional channels
- Been supported by a group of volunteers to assist with leaflet distribution and other publicity

7. What we want to do next

The following pages set out what we plan to do to meet our objectives over the next three years. It is intended as a framework and may alter as opportunities arise. Our progress depends very much on securing a piece of land and working towards this as a priority but whilst this is ongoing, we will continue to build links and partnership, take other practical action that promotes the group and fulfils its aims and develops the long term financial and organisational foundations of the group.

At the end of each year, we will review and revise the plan for the following year as necessary.

8. First year priority actions

By the end of 2023 our targets are to		Income	Costs	Funded from
A. Seeking and securing a piece of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue all possible leads and opportunities that have been identified to acquire/lease a piece of land for the project within the village boundaries. 	Crowdfunding/ 'Membership'	Land purchase,	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to seek any further possible opportunities for securing land. • Purchase or enter into a lease agreement for a piece of land when a suitable one becomes available. 	Coop Community Trust National Lottery Community Fund	£10,00-£20,000 + costs Land lease £300 + costs	
B. Working with the community to develop and manage the land as a community growing space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to seek opportunities to communicate with as many members of the community as possible about our aims to build support, both active and ‘passive’, for the project. Including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attending village events and celebrations. - Making contact with the village surgery to discuss opportunities for wellbeing groups and green prescribing. - Maintain contact with Timsbury Gardening Club and the Allotments Society. - Establishing links with other village organisations such as the Library Hub, Youth Bus, School and Churches. 		Possible initial site costs; -fencing materials and labour £1000 - Mowing £500 - Initial tool purchase £750 - Toll storage/shed £1000 Water supply – dependent on site	
C. Securing funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to research opportunities for grant funding and apply when appropriate. • Continue to seek other routes for funding such as private sponsorship and crowdfunding. 			

D. Working collaboratively and building partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the informal links we have established with groups such as Corston Community Orchard. • Pursue the opportunity of a link with B&NES council through their Economic Development /Procurement Dept. 			
E. Educating, sharing skills, experience and best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities for any possible structured sessions around the aims of Grow Timsbury such as food growing, healthy eating, biodiversity etc. 			

Provisionally identified funding sources

Year on year running costs – to increase in line with inflation

Item	Detail	Income	Expenditure	Source
Initial website design and hosting			£200	
Printing and promotion			£250	
Venue costs			£150	
Insurance			£150	
Accounting			£100	
Volunteer expenses			£100	
Materials for events			£150	

9. Income & Expenditure

We will seek income from a wide range of sources so that our income is more robust and less likely to be adversely affected by changes in one funding stream. Sources we will explore will include:

- Grants national and local
- Sponsorship
- Crowd funding
- 'Membership' scheme
- Donations
- '100' club model

Expenditure will be agreed and approved when it is in line with the agreed priorities of the project plan and agreed by a majority of Grow Timsbury directors.

10. Managing Risks

We will maintain a risk register where we will identify key issues which the group does or is likely to need to manage. We will consider operational, financial, reputational and other risks. When we undertake a particular part of the project, we will also first check what risks we might be taking on and how best to minimise and manage them

11. Legal incorporation

Grow Timsbury is a Community Interest Company (CIC) no. 10709916

Registered address: Ganders Ash Loves Hill, Timsbury, Bath, Bath And North East Somerset, BA2 0EU

12. People

Board of Directors

Deborah Griffin

Originally from Belfast, it was the move to rural Somerset that sparked an interest in food and farming. Deborah has pursued this growing interest through involvement with a number of animal welfare charities, setting up a food sharing project and being part of the Taste of Timsbury team running an annual food and drink festival plus legacy activities. Her love of the outdoors continues to blossom and although still a 'learner', she has become a heartfelt advocate of locally grown food and a food system that is kind to animals.

Deborah has worked in the public and HE sectors in HR and Organisational Development and is currently at the University of Bath.

Susan Walker

Sue is a retired environmental community worker who spent over 25 years working for a health and wellbeing charity, based in a South Bristol community with high social and health needs. As part of her work ,she set up a successful community market garden and orchard. The produce was sold at low cost to local people through a food cooperative and was also used in the teaching kitchen, where residents learnt how to cook healthy low -ost meals.

Sue believes that her professional experience will prove useful in the development of Grow Timsbury, which has similar aspirations to her previous work.

Christine Bowes

Christine grew up in Exeter and moved to Timsbury in 1998, having lived in London for many years. She worked in a variety of jobs including setting up and running a cheese importing company; working in retail and as a lettings manager; training as a sub editor on the Bath Chronicle and most recently working in customer services for an education resource provider.

Since retiring a few years ago, Christine has become involved in various village projects including volunteering with the Timsbury community library and joining the Community Speedwatch team. She was one of the original team behind the Taste of Timsbury food festivals.

Jacqui Grainger

Originally from Manchester Jacqui's love of the natural world started from riding her bike around Lancashire and Cheshire when she was younger. After teaching in secondary schools for a few years she wanted to use her teaching skills to help connect people to the nature around them and moved into the field of environmental education. Moving to the South-West for a post with Avon Wildlife Trust she has been here ever since and has been involved with both formal and informal education for sustainability ever since too. She has worked for a variety of third sector sustainability organisations and also ran her own environmental education consultancy with a partner. She has always been involved in volunteering in the community including supporting Timsbury Pre-school, St Mary's school and Radford Mill Farm before becoming involved in Grow Timsbury.

14. Contacts

Website – www.growtimsbury.org.uk

Email – info@growtimsbury.org.uk