Growing Lambeth

Community Gardener Brief
November 2014

Introduction

Building on the strong network of community gardeners and food activists in Lambeth, the Growing Lambeth project, aims to establish a community of practice for community food growing groups within the London Borough of Lambeth that will enable the 170 existing growing groups and new community growing groups to share skills, knowledge, and resources to the benefit of all.

Funded by Esme Fairbairn Trust, Growing Lambeth has four objectives:

1. Establish a Co-ordinated Multi Agency programme that develops the local food economy in Lambeth and supports the delivery of the Lambeth Food Strategy
2. Improve access to resources, food growing media and transport to access top-soil, mulch, manure and donated materials for building raised beds. 75 local food growing groups and 500 new individual food growers will benefit
3. Enhance skills and training - in community engagement, food growing, cooking skills, project management, fundraising, organisational sustainability and reporting mechanisms. 200 people will be involved in food growing skills courses and two capacity-building courses for community groups will be run each year.
4. Establish routes to market for local food growing groups and collective bulk buying opportunities for materials, seeds and plants

Growing Lambeth is delivered through a joint Partnership between Groundwork London, Lambeth Council and Incredible Edible Lambeth.

Four Growing hubs have been established in Lambeth; Myatts Fields Park Greenhouses, Streatham Common Community Garden, Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses and Rosendale Allotments. Each of these four hubs deliver skills, training and education in food growing, horticulture and the environment, giving support and disseminating expertise to the wider horticultural and food growing community. Growing Lambeth is working with the hubs to establish a common strategy, share good practise and coordinate training across the borough.
It is an exciting time to be working in Lambeth, which has actively developed a Lambeth Food Policy over the last few years and has recently received a grant from the GLA to deliver a number of projects as a Flagship Food Borough.

**Rosendale Allotments**

Rosendale Allotments occupies an 18 acre sloping site on the borders of West Norwood, Herne Hill, and Tulse Hill. The site is bounded by terraced housing on Rosendale Road, Lovelace Road and Thurlow Hill, estates on Peabody Hill and Lairdale Close and a wooded railway cutting; with panoramic views across London. It is leased from Dulwich Estates and the association has successfully managed the site as a local resource since 1921.

The site accounts for about 75% of all allotment provision in Lambeth, an inner city borough with high levels of deprivation. It is not a council owned site, and is managed entirely by an elected committee of volunteers. The site and its equipment are maintained by two part time staff and through support from volunteer plot holders.

There are currently over 300 plot holders, who work their plots with their friends and families. The association has a diverse membership of all ages and ethnicities. The site provides an informal space bringing contact between the different ethnic communities and generations. People exchange advice and friendship while sharing the common interest of growing food and enjoying healthy, physical recreation in a peaceful, green environment.

**Streatham Common Community Garden**

Streatham Common Community Garden (SCCG) is located in a walled garden within the grade II* listed Rookery – which celebrated a centenary as a public park in 2013. The community garden is in the area used for many years as a nursery for the park, before falling into dereliction.

SCCG were founded in 2011 and registered as a charity in autumn 2013. SCCG started as a committee of 6 people and took over the then derelict former plant nursery in September 2013 with an inaugural volunteer day. We have since brought the site back into productive use as a community growing space, have developed a supporter list of 300 and had 200 volunteers and a core of 30 or so regular volunteers. SCCG have secured funds to make physical improvements to make the site accessible and capable of delivering educational activities. We have also had 3 successful growing years as a community garden providing demonstration of successful sustainable food growing.
SCCG charity objectives are:

1. The advancement of education for the inhabitants of Streatham Common and adjoining neighbourhoods in particular by:
   a. providing a demonstration of and training in (organic) gardening / growing of vegetables;
   b. running an (organic) garden and demonstrating (organic) gardening and food cultivation methods which include horticulture, self-sufficiency, local food growing and recycling;
   c. maintaining the historic nature of Streatham Common Rookery nursery garden and educating about its heritage.

2. The preservation and conservation of the Streatham Common Rookery nursery garden and its structures for the public benefit with a view to promoting the conservation of the environment more generally by promoting sustainable cultivation and appreciation of flora and fauna.

3. The provision and maintenance of a public garden for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the Streatham Common area and the surrounds and visitors to the area (the beneficiaries) in the interests of social welfare and with the objects of improving conditions of life for the said beneficiaries

The Commission

The Growing Lambeth Partnership is seeking to appoint a consultant community gardener to work at Rosendale Allotments and / or Streatham Common Community Garden to undertake the following:

- Plan and deliver a calendar of horticultural workshops and training
- Support planning and facilitation of a series of seasonal events, for example seed swaps, plant swaps and harvest festival
- Maintain support for local schools, community groups and estates with their food growing programmes
- Work with Growing Lambeth / hub community gardeners to:
  - Develop a series of workshop lesson plans and accompanying worksheets
  - Establish a coordinated training programme across the four hubs
  - Share best practise
- Undertake monitoring and evaluation tasks
- Support Growing Lambeth’s objective to build Rosendale Allotments and Streatham Common Community Garden capacity in delivering food growing training and outreach activities.

The commission will start in December 2014 and continue until the end of November 2015.

The Growing Lambeth Partnership is seeking a consultant with the following:
• A passion for urban horticulture, food growing and the environment
• Experience in planning and delivering food growing workshops to local community members
• Horticultural and food growing expertise including practical skills
• Experience in working and communicating with diverse and disadvantaged community groups
• Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
• A good team player
• Good organisational, record keeping and logistic skills
• Basic budget management
• Self-starter and able to work effectively alone
• Understanding of and commitment to diversity and equal opportunities
• Willingness to work outside of office hours, including occasional weekends and evenings
• Ability to work from home as required

The appointed consultant will be required to adhere to Groundwork London Equality, Diversity and Health and Safety policies whilst undertaking tasks related to this commission.

**Community Gardener Fee**

The community gardener fee available for each hub is up to £5,000. The Growing Lambeth Partnership would like to welcome submissions for the following options:

1. Delivery of one commission at Streatham Common Community Garden or Rosendale Allotments to the value of up to £5,000 or

2. Delivery of both commissions at Streatham Common Community Garden and Rosendale Allotments up to the value of £10,000

It is anticipated each £5000 commission will equate to 50 days of delivery based on the tasks outlined above. The appointed consultant will work with Growing Lambeth and the Hub lead to shape and agree the programme of work undertaken through this commission.

Travel, printing and telephone costs incurred for the purpose of the commission will be reimbursed on production of suitable evidence on a monthly basis.

A minimum budget of £500 will be provided to each hub’s commission to fund project related materials.

**Submission process**

Timescales for submission are as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission closing date</td>
<td>5pm, 24th November 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortlisting</td>
<td>Week beginning 24th November 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>Thursday 11th December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant appointment</td>
<td>Week beginning 15th December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commission to finish</td>
<td>November 30th 2015</td>
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It is anticipated a half day induction to the Growing Lambeth programme will take place in December 2014. Wider delivery will begin in January 2015.

To Apply:

You may apply by email or by post. Your submission should include:

1. A CV
2. Maximum of two A4 sides outlining your skills, experience and ability to deliver this commission
3. A copy of your public liability insurance

All submissions must be received by **5pm, 24th November 2014.**

Submissions to be emailed to Fabiola.Cedillo@groundwork.org.uk

or sent to:
Fabiola Cedillo
Groundwork London
18-21 Morley Street
London
SE1 7QZ

The panel’s decision will be final and correspondence will not be entered into.

Contact details

Please direct all enquiries via email to:
Fabiola Cedillo
Groundwork London Project Officer
Fabiola.Cedillo@groundwork.org.uk