

Sustainability Committee

SC(3)-08-10 (p3): 18 March 2010

Inquiry into the Provision of Allotments in Wales: Evidence from Newport County Council

In Newport, our allotments are currently over-subscribed, with the 2 self-managed sites, having waiting lists of a few years long.

There is only one private site in Newport, and this is currently the subject of a planning application for housing.

A development for us is the creation of allotment areas within school grounds.

We are also looking to convert an area of recreational open space into a community garden. This is in a really deprived ward, and is being driven by the community itself.

We have 1,000 spaces overall.

The current legislation regarding countryside/recreational areas means that to convert it into an allotment area, we have to place an advert locally. This costs circa £1000. The Community Groups would appreciate it, if this provision could be waived, so that the £1000 could be spent on the site, instead.

We have no info on the health benefits of allotments, although the local health authority have taken over some of our plots, and are known to be using them to help improve certain clients fitness levels.