

21. COMMUNITY GARDENS - DRAFT POLICY REPORT

Officer responsible Sustainable Christchurch Team Leader	Author Wendy Kilgariff, DDI 941-8037
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The purpose of this report is to present to individual Community Boards the attached draft policy document outlining some strategies to increase capacity and foster strengthened communication between existing/developing Community Gardens, the Christchurch Community Gardens Association and Christchurch City Council.

INTRODUCTION

In response to the success of community gardens in Christchurch the attached document introduces some policy recommendations. The aim of the draft policy document is to support and strengthen relationships that will assure ongoing assistance for the community gardens.

Community gardens have been established since 1995/1996 and are maintained by core groups of local residents. Input from the local community groups has been the basis for the development of this document.

The need to develop policy for both the establishment and the ongoing management of community gardens is evident. Costs relating to the establishment and management of community gardens is low.

Defining the level of assistance that individual Community Boards/Christchurch City Council proposes will greatly assist both community groups embarking on developing a community garden and the groups already in existence with information regarding ongoing support and key relationships.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Community Boards consider and amend as they think fit the draft community gardens policy document enabling the community gardens advocate to present the draft policy to the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee with the suggestions from the Boards.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: For discussion.