

**To: Forum for Empowering Communities**

**On: 4 September 2019**

**Report by:  
John Wilby, Chair, Paisley West & Central Community Council**

**TITLE:**

**SANCTUARY GARDEN, UNDERWOOD ROAD, PAISLEY**

**1. Summary**

A short video will be shown which highlights a project which has helped to tackle social isolation in the Paisley and surround area and has raised awareness of the West End Growing Grounds Association.

The Sanctuary Garden has switched locations to Underwood Road in Paisley which has culminated in a successful growing grounds enterprise.

**2. Recommendations**

That the presentation and attached briefing be noted.



## **Sanctuary Garden Underwood Road Paisley**

### **Briefing Note**

The Sanctuary Garden has 108 beds allocated to individuals and groups and 4 for common use. (Two for fruit and two for herbs and flowers). Because of Planning's insistence on a car park and, to maximize the remaining space for growing, beds have been coupled together.

Each bed is 8' x 4' and we normally allocate a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 per individual or group. (Because of their training requirement and input, West College has 6 beds). We limit group membership to 6 persons.

There are currently 4 registered groups and 2 further applications. Eight individuals currently have 4 beds. Twelve have 2 beds.

On this basis, 36 will be group members using 26 beds. Eight members are currently using 32 beds. Twelve are using 24 beds.

Once all beds have been commissioned and, assuming a future minimum of 2 beds per individual, we can accommodate a further 13 Growing members - a total of 69 members. We currently have 56 growing members.

Membership includes 4 African and 1 Syrian expat. There are 2 disabled members and we have received no requests for access adaptations.

Until we can gauge the level of demand the Board has limited the catchment area to two miles. This supports our aim for members to "grow locally" - it also limits the carbon footprint.

Membership is free. Individual members currently pay an annual fee of £10 per bed and groups pay £60 for 4 beds. There is an additional £5 access key deposit. Our polytunnel has capacity for 8 members, on payment of a £5 annual fee. This is likely to be doubled next year and we have applied for a grant for a second polytunnel with the same capacity. Fees are decided at the AGM.