

# Leith Community Croft Management Plan Supplementary Suggestions

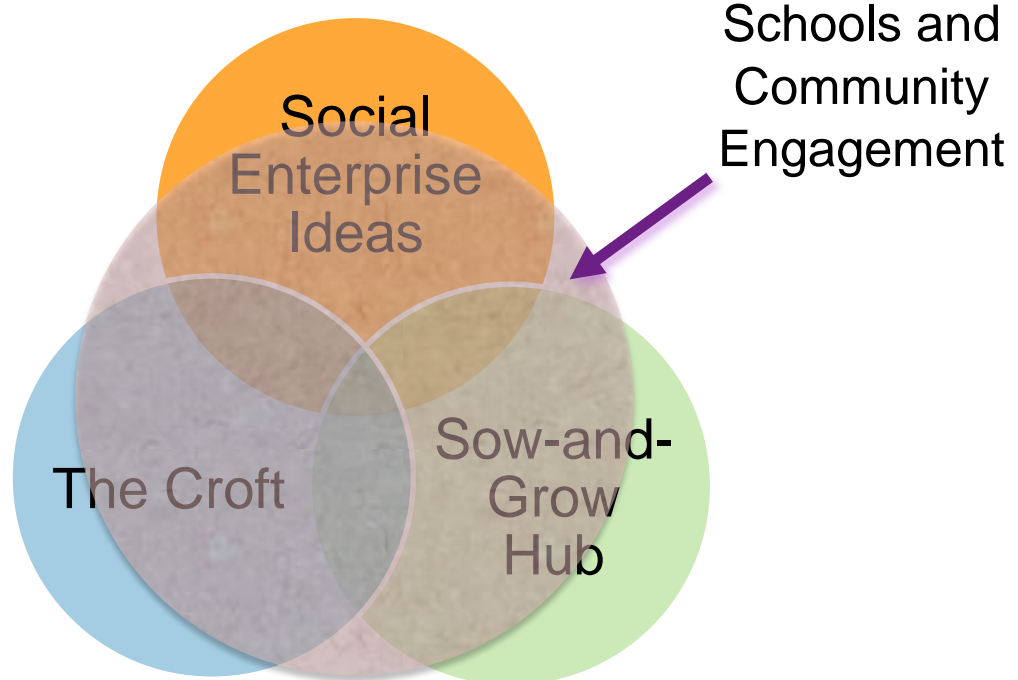


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## A. Introduction: Integration is Key



After the Management Plan document had been drafted, it was realised that several points had been omitted. These are related to the project's long-term viability, to the board's own ambitions for the project and to the integration of what happens on the Croft site with what LCCIP is doing off it. Integration is the keyword here: all the supplementary ideas are also complementary and interrelated. The board and the Community Education Officer would have to take the lead on most of the projects mentioned here.

## B. Justifying the Ideas

The "Background to the Croft Management Plan" section of the Management Plan document lists the constraints on LCCIP's work on the Croft. To a large extent these also apply to the ideas presented here, especially when they relate to activities on the Croft. Therefore the projects mentioned in this document also need to be justified with reference to the constraints. This can be done in the following ways:

### 1) By reference to existing suggestions from the community

For example in the document titled "Leith Community Croft Public Consultation Event, 26 April 2014" it is reported that someone suggested having a greenhouse on the site made from recycled bottles. This might be useful to mention in connection with some of the ideas discussed below.

### 2) By reference to what those members of the board resident in Leith suggest

Those members of the board who are resident in Leith have as much right as other local residents to have their ideas influence developments on the Croft, so the board could legitimately note that, say, three members of the community have suggested Idea X if three Leith-resident board members agreed on an idea. There would also be no problem in the board originating ideas and then testing their support in the community.

### 3) By reference to the long-term viability of LCCIP and its projects

Currently almost all our funding comes from the Climate Challenge Fund, but this source of income comes to an end in 2016. This funding itself was partly awarded on the basis of the long-term viability of LCCIP's projects, so there is not only a need for us to find alternative sources of funding if we wish to keep LCCIP going, but there is also, arguably, an obligation to do so.

## C. Social Enterprise, Sow-and-Grow Hub, and Integration with Schools and Community Engagement

### 1) Social Enterprise

#### **Not an immediate priority**

There is no need to get these ideas implemented this year. The priority must be to get the CCF-funded work off to a strong start.

#### **Board and volunteers**

It is suggested that the board appoint one or two members to take the lead on developing ideas with regard to this respect. They may wish to advertise for volunteers for a Group (as this term is used in the Management Plan document) to help in this regard.

#### **Specific ideas**

Ideas would include:

- a sow-and-grow hub selling seedlings for the community to grow (discussed below),
- the provision of courses/training in various areas (e.g. in cooking, gardening and the preparation of simple remedies and cosmetics), and
- a café on the Croft (already suggested by the community).

How would the latter sit with the fact that no new permanent structures can be erected in the site? Could the existing building be used, or could we have a pop-up café using portable equipment?

## 2) Sow-and-Grow Hub

This could be situated on the Croft (or elsewhere) and serve multiple purposes. It could contribute to social enterprise through the selling of seedlings and the provision of training. It could supply seedlings to school growing projects. It could also serve as a site for the education of schoolchildren and adults by the Community Education Officer. It would, presumably, require a greenhouse or greenhouses and facilities for potting. If these are to be sited on the Croft we would need to clarify what would constitute permissible structures on common good land, as mentioned above, and we would need to think about security, as greenhouses might be vulnerable to vandalism.

## 3) Schools and Community Engagement

This is alluded to in the Management Plan document, but it merits a specific mention here. Obviously the Community Education Officer will play a major role in this. Her recommendations might include specific facilities, signage and labelling for the Croft site and booking various zones of the Croft at times for the exclusive use of, for example, parties of schoolchildren (once these zones have been demarcated as suggested in the “Suggestions for the Leith Community Croft Management Plan”). It would make sense for there to be a prominent noticeboard on which bookings and events could be advertised.

Important to mention here are the health-and-safety policy documents/risk assessments drafted by the Community Education Officer, which will influence activities and procedures on the Croft and elsewhere.