

## **West Lothian Food Growing Strategy Online Survey Report Aug 18 – Oct 18**

### **Introduction**

This report outlines the results of the online food growing survey. The survey complimented the community and stakeholder workshops that West Lothian Council hosted to shape West Lothian's Food Growing Strategy. It provided an opportunity for people who could not attend the workshops to give their information and feedback. The workshops were facilitated by greenspace scotland.

**This report details the responses from everyone that completed the survey. It is accompanied by a google map that plots the locations and responses from everyone that provided a full postcode.** A final report will be created that takes account of the outcomes from the survey and the workshops making recommendations for the development of the Food growing Strategy based on the outcomes.

### **Responses**

The online survey was open from 25 Aug to 10 Oct 2018. 88 people completed the survey. 74 people provided full postcodes and this information is mapped on a google map along with their responses to the first five questions.

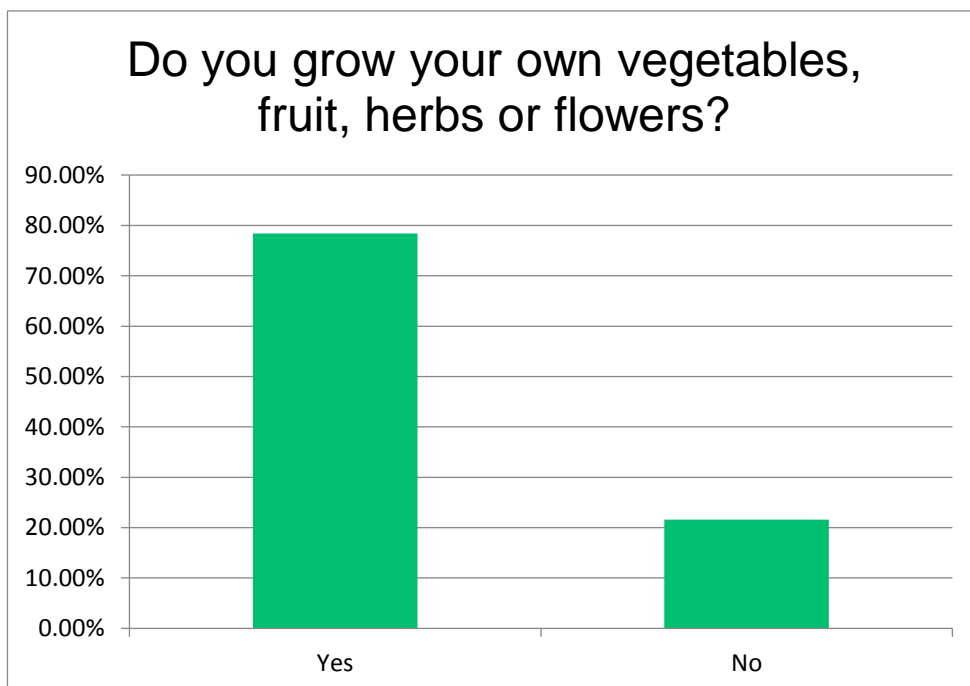
**Q1 Please let us know roughly which area in West Lothian you live or work in by giving us your post code**

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| <b>Answered</b> | <b>88</b> |
| <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>0</b>  |

**Q2 Do you grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers?**

| Answer Choices | Responses |    |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Yes            | 78.41%    | 69 |
| No             | 21.59%    | 19 |

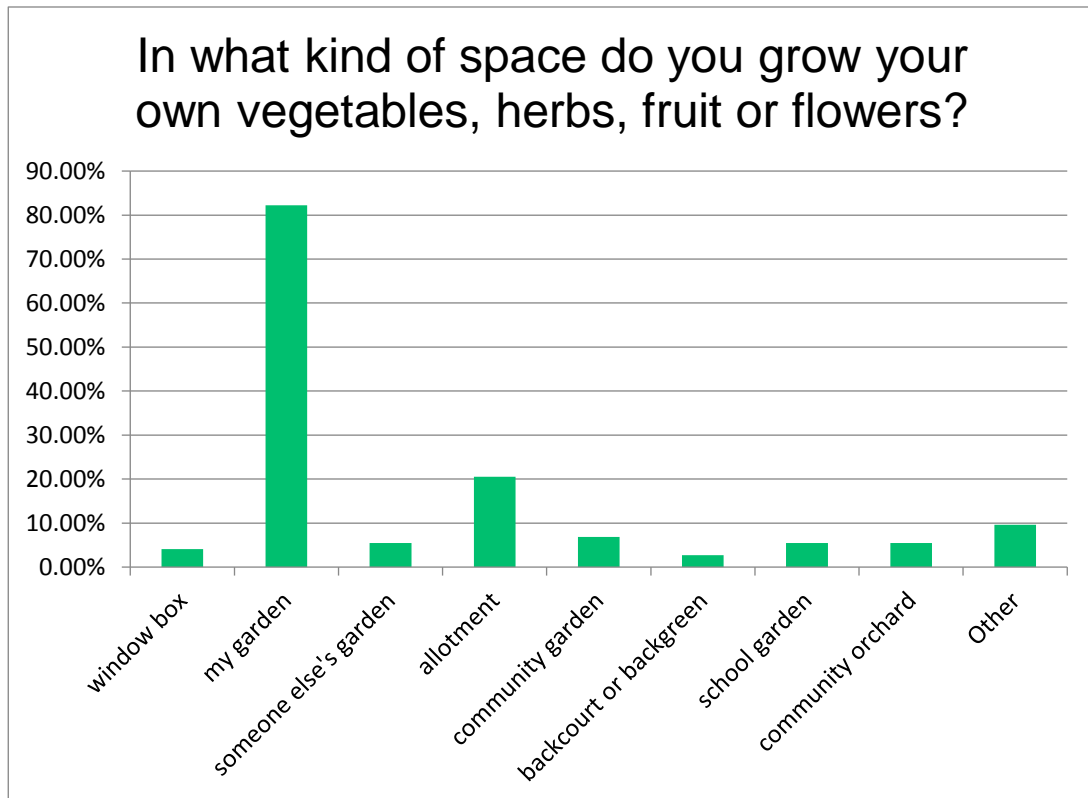
**Answered 88**  
**Skipped 0**



**Q3 In what kind of space do you grow your own vegetables, herbs, fruit or flowers?**

| Answer Choices         | Responses |    |
|------------------------|-----------|----|
| window box             | 4.11%     | 3  |
| my garden              | 82.19%    | 60 |
| someone else's garden  | 5.48%     | 4  |
| allotment              | 20.55%    | 15 |
| community garden       | 6.85%     | 5  |
| backcourt or backgreen | 2.74%     | 2  |
| school garden          | 5.48%     | 4  |
| community orchard      | 5.48%     | 4  |
| Other                  | 9.59%     | 7  |

**Answered 73**  
**Skipped 15**



| Other  |
|--|
| Work   |
| We have a walled garden that could grow food but West Lothian council have told us there is no money to do this? |
| Planters   |
| Forage   |
| Tomato plants in the office  |

I would love to turn an area of the school grounds into a nurture/growing and sensory garden.

Plants in public spaces

#### Q4 Would you like to grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers?

| Answer Choices                             | Responses |    |
|--|-----------|----|
| Yes  | 96.30%    | 52 |
| No   | 0.00%     | 0  |
| Don't know                                 | 3.70%     | 2  |
| If you are not sure please let us know why |           | 3  |

Answered 54  
Skipped 34



#### If you are not sure please let us know why

I would like to grow more fruit and herbs

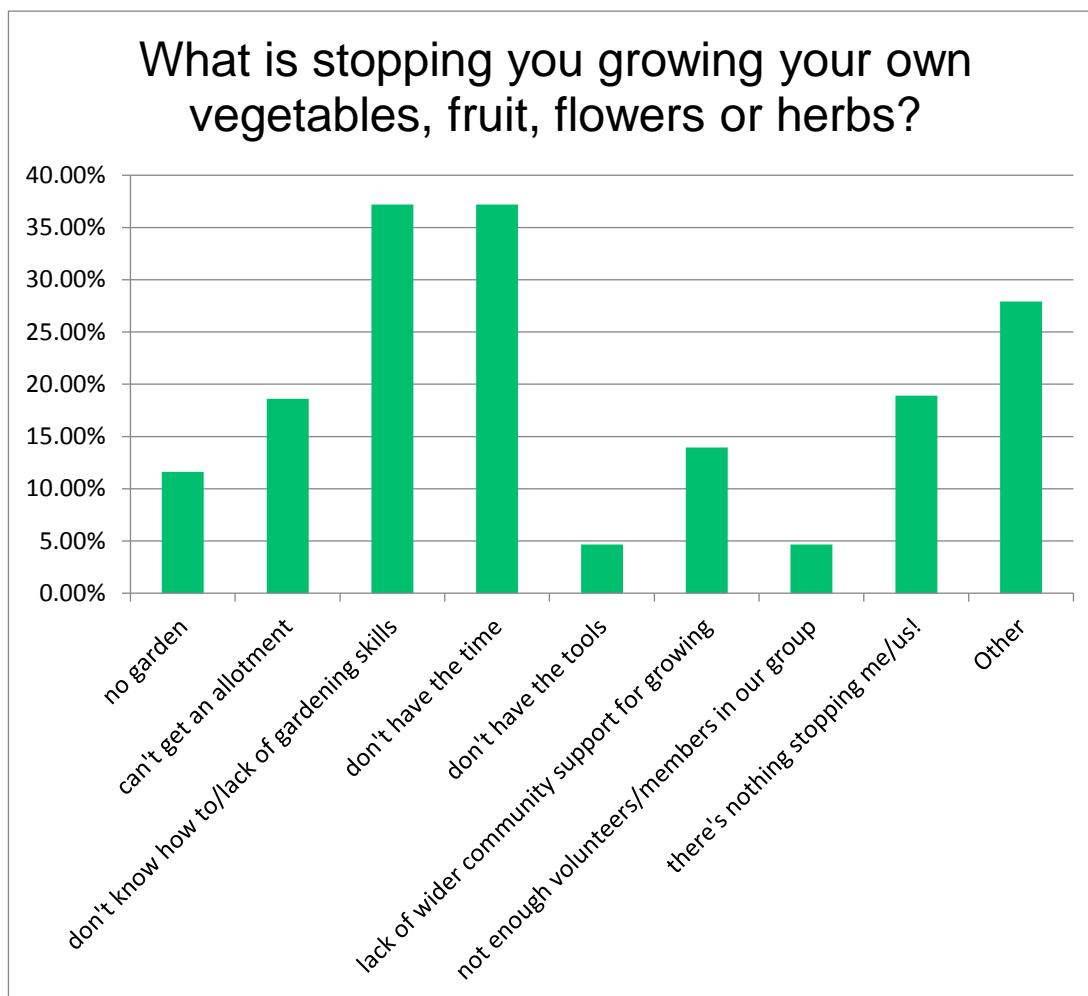
No garden space all hard landscaped

#### Q5 What is stopping you growing your own vegetables, fruit, flowers or herbs?

| Answer Choices                              | Responses |    |
|---|-----------|----|
| no garden                                   | 11.63%    | 5  |
| can't get an allotment                      | 18.60%    | 8  |
| don't know how to/lack of gardening skills  | 37.21%    | 16 |
| don't have the time                         | 37.21%    | 16 |
| don't have the tools                        | 4.65%     | 2  |
| lack of wider community support for growing | 13.95%    | 6  |

|  |        |    |
|--|--------|----|
| not enough volunteers/members in our group | 4.65%  | 2  |
| there's nothing stopping me/us!            | 18.92% | 7  |
| Other                                      | 27.91% | 12 |

**Answered 52**  
**Skipped 36**



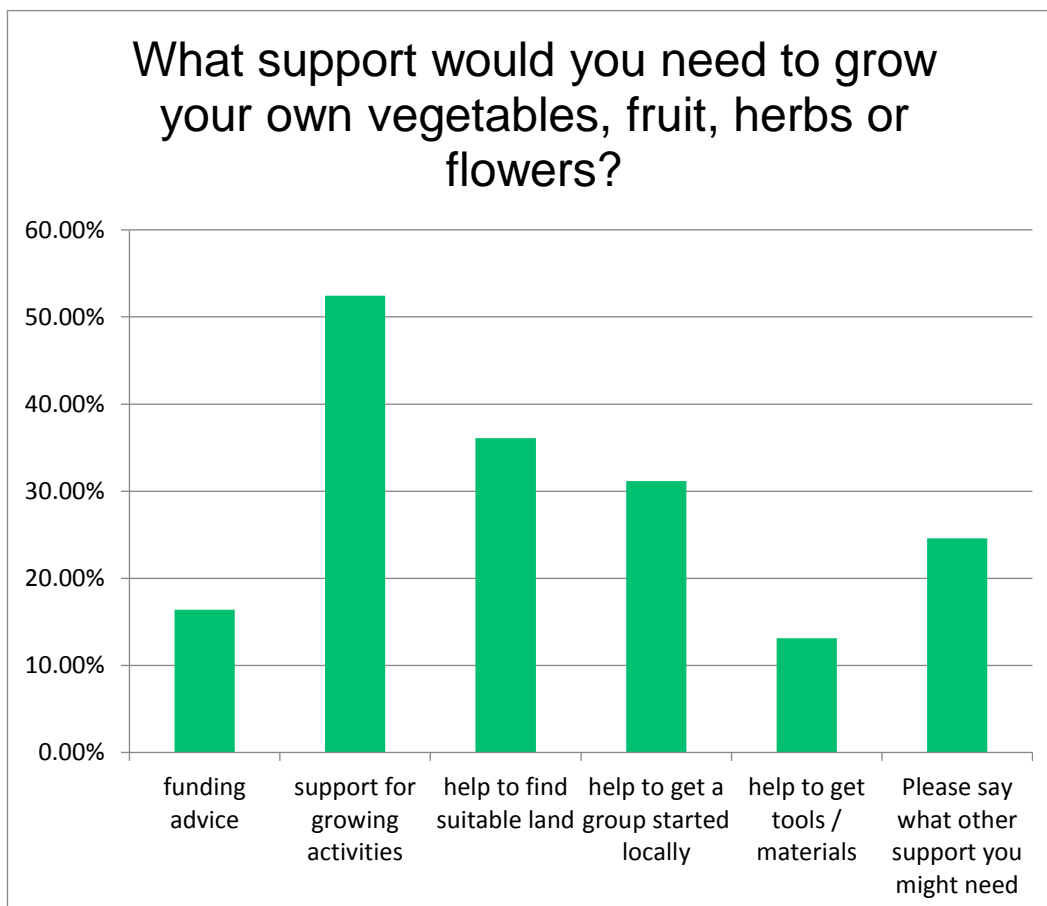
|   |
|---|
| <b>Other</b>  |
| I want a community garden not an allotment. shared investment, shared rewards, etc.   |
| Drainage in the street can cause problems and means boggy ground  |
| No room in garden   |
| Committee run allotment site where committee are overly officious and not considerate of disabilities which may hinder progress. Many at site want to be left alone to grow but committee are overly picky which has driven people away and put them off. |
| I would love to have an allotment closer to home. I travel to near harburn for mine   |

|   |
|---|
| I do grow but would like to know more and have access to skilled and experienced growers  |
| Information of where to access areas for growing  |
| Small garden so lack of space   |
| Health, have a problem with my neck   |
| Larger areas of land.   |
| I don't want to turn all my garden into veg growing space, so space is the limit. Also having trouble with some insects and lack of knowledge how to deal with them doesn't help. |
| The area of land is covered in mares tail and is needing a fair bit of work done.   |

**Q6 What support would you need to grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers?**

| Answer Choices                               | Responses |    |
|--|-----------|----|
| funding advice                               | 16.39%    | 10 |
| support for growing activities               | 52.46%    | 32 |
| help to find suitable land                   | 36.07%    | 22 |
| help to get a group started locally          | 31.15%    | 19 |
| help to get tools / materials                | 13.11%    | 8  |
| Please say what other support you might need | 24.59%    | 15 |

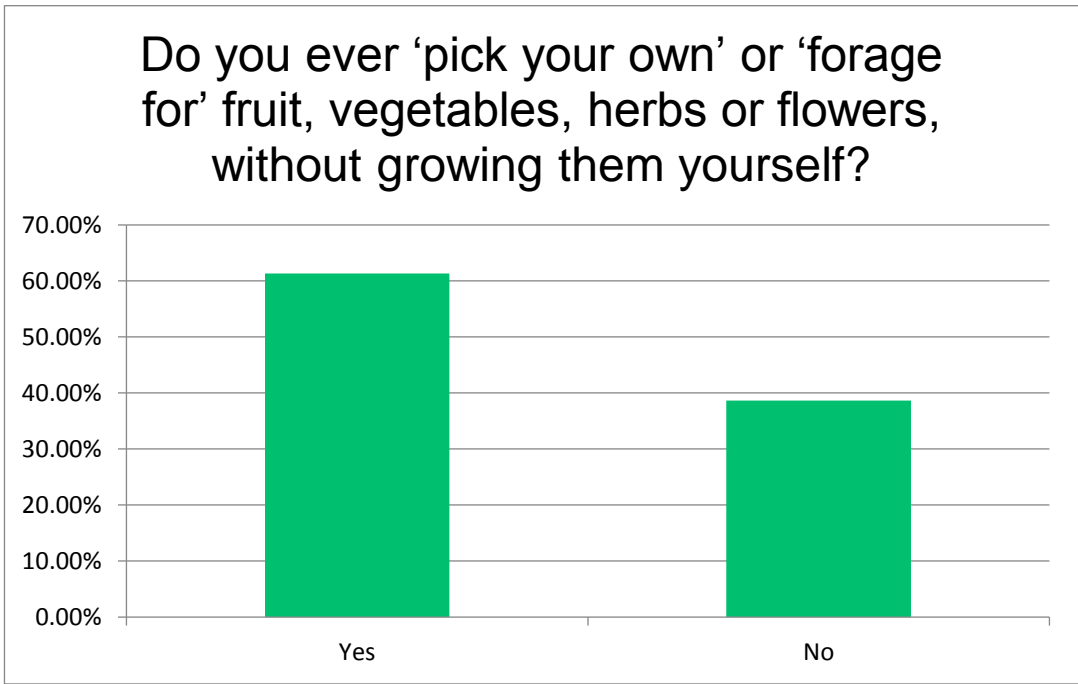
**Answered 61**  
**Skipped 27**



| <b>Please say what other support you might need</b>   |
|---|
| My health inhibits my activity but I have persevered and done the hard work in constructing 6 raised beds and other areas for growing. Beds 6 feet by 3 feet by 1 foot deep. I have used my own mix of compost to fill them. It was heavy work but now it is done and I have had a great growing season with a bountiful harvest. |
| Time  |
| Unsure. I would grow veg etc in my own garden   |
| We had the man power it not the funding to plant  |
| Need more free time   |
| disability access   |
| Wider publicity   |
| I work for a charity and i would love to have some land that we could use to grow and prodcue food etc  |
| Advice on when to plant, local varieties, pests and diseases, etc   |
| More volunteers   |
| Time  |
| Physical help with general weeding, planting, knowing when & how to plant, knowledge  |
| Transforming the area of land.  |

**Q7 Do you ever ‘pick your own’ or ‘forage for’ fruit, vegetables, herbs or flowers, without growing them yourself?**

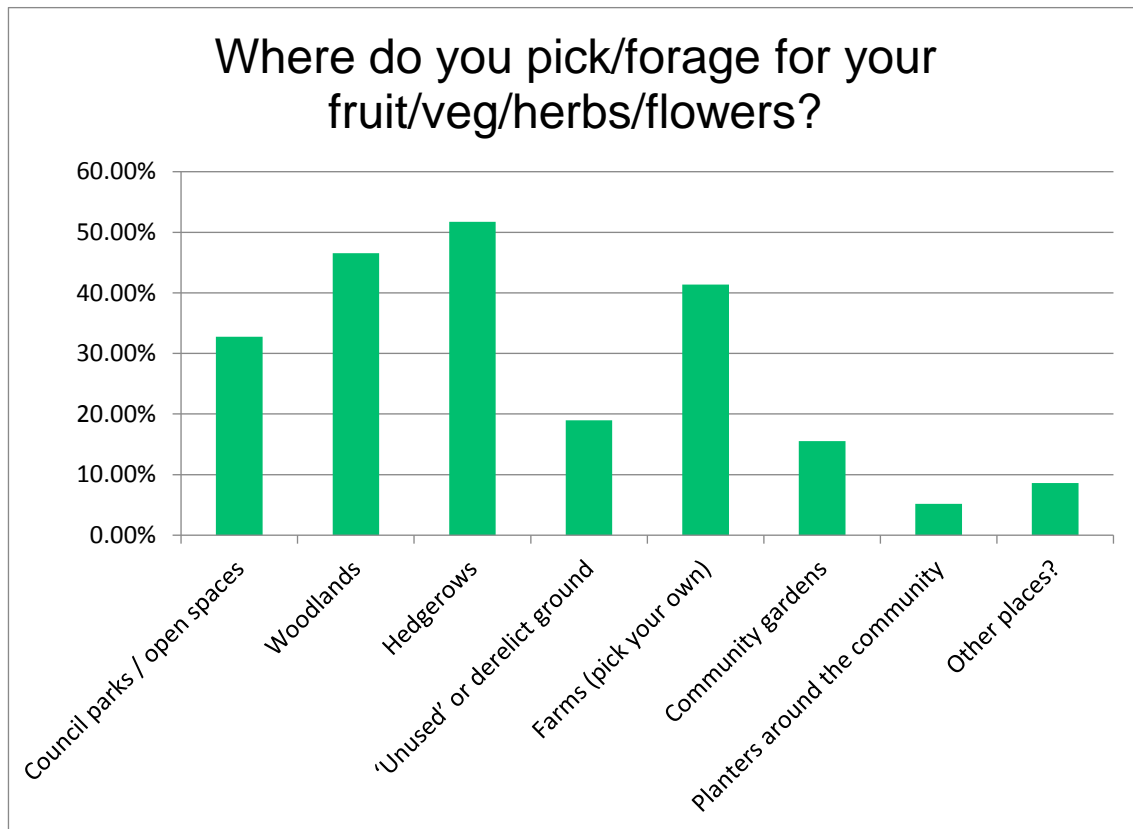
| <b>Answer Choices</b> | <b>Responses</b> |           |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Yes                   | 61.36%           | 54        |
| No                    | 38.64%           | 34        |
| <b>Answered</b>       |                  | <b>88</b> |
| <b>Skipped</b>        |                  | <b>0</b>  |



### Q8 Where do you pick/forage for your fruit/veg/herbs/flowers?

| Answer Choices                | Responses |    |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Council parks / open spaces   | 32.76%    | 19 |
| Woodlands                     | 46.55%    | 27 |
| Hedgerows                     | 51.72%    | 30 |
| 'Unused' or derelict ground   | 18.97%    | 11 |
| Farms (pick your own)         | 41.38%    | 24 |
| Community gardens             | 15.52%    | 9  |
| Planters around the community | 5.17%     | 3  |
| Other places?                 | 8.62%     | 5  |

Answered **58**  
Skipped **30**

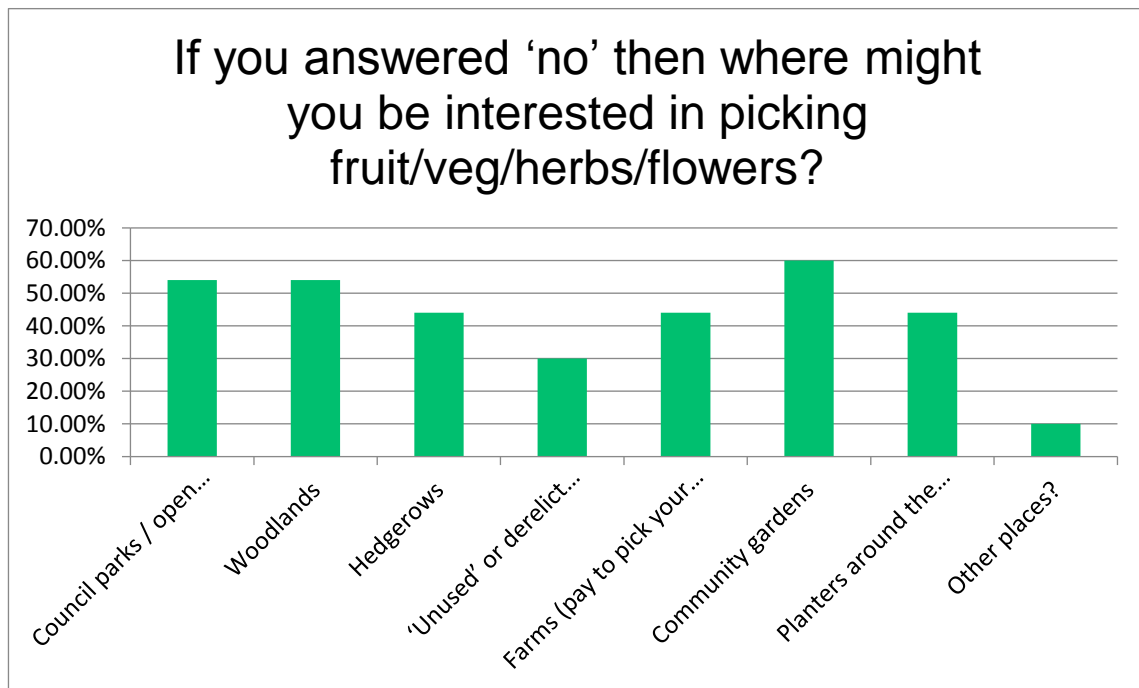


| Other places?   |
|---|
| My own garden   |
| Community orchards  |
| My own garden - we have blackcurrants, plums, apples, raspberries, gooseberries some herbs. |



**Q9 If you answered 'no' then where might you be interested in picking fruit/veg/herbs/flowers?**

| Answer Choices                | Responses       |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Council parks / open spaces   | 54.00%          | 27        |
| Woodlands                     | 54.00%          | 27        |
| Hedgerows                     | 44.00%          | 22        |
| 'Unused' or derelict ground   | 30.00%          | 15        |
| Farms (pay to pick your own)  | 44.00%          | 22        |
| Community gardens             | 60.00%          | 30        |
| Planters around the community | 44.00%          | 22        |
| Other places?                 | 10.00%          | 5         |
|                               | <b>Answered</b> | <b>50</b> |
|                               | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>38</b> |



| Other places?   |
|---|
| If not sprayed with chemicals   |
| Allotments  |
| Everywhere  |
| Winchburgh Growing Group have been my inspiration   |
| I previously worked for a CCF funded project and have knowledge of community engagement and food growing in my professional and personal life. I live in Edinburgh, but work in Craigshill. I am interested in supporting groups and individuals to grow their own food and to understand the wider benefits of this. |