

## Questionnaire Results for “New Bakewell Garden Allotments 2007” SDF Project

Date: 21 September 2007

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**Thank You's:** The Feasibility Study Project Manager would like to heartily thank all those who completed Questionnaires, and the 27 residents who signed the Petition that was presented to the Town Council on 17 September 2007. Also, we especially thank all the Bakewell Tourist Information Centre staff who so helpfully handed out Questionnaires to those requesting one, and then received back the completed Questionnaires at the TIC. Their place at the centre of the Bakewell community served the Project, and the responding residents, very well. Of course, we are also very pleased to acknowledge the 42% subsidy of project costs by the Sustainable Development Fund office (sourced from DEFRA), administered by the Peak District National Park Authority at Bakewell.

### 1. Want new allotments to be created in Bakewell?

All the 39 Households responding indicated that they would like new allotments to be provided in Bakewell, and this represents 75 individuals. Of these individuals, 69% (52) are aged between 41 and 66+ years, which shows the primary age group that is showing support for more allotments in Bakewell.

### 2. Want their own allotment?

In this case, 33 (85%) of the 39 Households responding (representing 54 individuals, 50 of whom are eligible to vote) wanted their own allotment. The single largest sub-group was the 51-65 age range (22 people, or 41% of the 54 total responding).

**Implication:** Taken with the knowledge that there are currently only 7.5 full allotments in Bakewell (of the 15 existing before construction of the Meaden Bridge to the ABC), this is more than a four-fold factor of desired allotments over existing allotments (33 divided by 7.5 = 4.4). While this significant mismatch between supply and demand cannot realistically be ignored by the Town Council, a mitigating factor for the Council may be that not all these 33 households want a full-size allotment, as indicated by other results herein.

### 3. Should plots be “Organic”?

42% of the 36 respondents said “Yes” to Organic, 58% said “Leave it up to the plot holder”, and interestingly, no one said “No” to their plot being “Organic”.

### 4. Facilities wanted at allotments.

Not surprisingly, having a water supply led the table, with Composting, Road Access and Secure Tool Storage following. The full results are shown below.

Composting	30	77%
Water	35	90%
Electricity	9	23%
Road Access	26	74%
Toilets	14	36%
Public Transport	8	21%
Shared Shelter	11	28%
Site Screening	12	31%
Secure Tool Store	23	59%
Tool-Pool	14	36%
Site Security	11	28%

Others: Well maintained plot boundaries; shed; rainwater storage.

### 5. Suggested Allotment Locations?

Nine suggested locations, some more specifically defined than others, were put forwarded, with some (interestingly) having multiple mentions. These are all listed below. With the great majority of respondents also having (separately) released their personal contact details, it should be quite possible to gain more specific details about these locations by consulting these residents.

**Implication:** As the Town Council considers its recommendations and eventual actions, it would do well to consider the merits of these suggested locations (and especially No. 9 ?!).

	<u>Mentions</u>
Location-1 Town Centre	3
Location-2 By LMS	1
Location-3 Moorhall	1
Location-4 Parsonage field	1
Location-5 Outskirts	2
Location-6 Coombs Road	4
Location-7 Near Firestation	1
Location-8 Near River	1
Location-9 Peak Park Office grounds	1

### 6. Would Donate to Tool-Pool?

Two-thirds (63%; 23 people) would donate to a "Tool-Pool" for sharing and recycling garden tools and implements.

### 7. Assist with Allotment creation?

A very encouraging 62% (26 people) would provide physical help/labour in creating allotments, and 21% more (9 people) would assist in non-physical activities; that is a total of 83% who would get "stuck in".

### 8. Suggested Local Donation Sources

Fifteen sources of donations were mentioned, many receiving multiple mentions. These consisted of two local builders merchants, an agricultural supplies company, two local businesses, various garden centres, and two stately homes in the area, plus the National Lottery, and Local Authorities.

**Implication:** The respondents were not short of ideas for possible donors, and certain of the above would likely be contacted in due course.

### 9. Currently have Allotment? Want One?

There were four options on this question:

- A.** Two responding households already have an allotment (1 in Bakewell, and 1 in Baslow as they could not get one in Bakewell – but they would of course prefer to have one in Bakewell).
- B.** The considerable number of 14 Bakewell households are on the DDDC waiting list for a Haddon Road allotment (of the total of 20 on the list) and still want an allotment, with very little hope of obtaining one at Haddon Road.
- C.** An also considerable number of 18 households who are not on the DDDC waiting list also want an allotment in Bakewell. At least one of these mentioned that when they heard about the length of the waiting list, they decided not to bother going onto it.
- D.** Did not want an Allotment for their own use.

**Implication:** There is a significant amount of pent-up demand for allotments in Bakewell: 33 additional allotments desired in Bakewell is **4.4 times the number (7.5) of current allotments at Haddon Road.**

## 10. Why do you want an allotment?

Many reasons were offered for wanting an allotment, such as: don't have any garden at residence, healthy exercise, growing healthy/fresh/organic food in season, improved sustainability, knowing all about how what you grew had been treated/cared for, beneficial social & community aspects, enjoyable leisure activity, link with parent/s having one, saving food costs, activity with own children/family, teaching children good food practices, being more self-sufficient, hobby-interest, having own fresh flowers, reduced "food miles" (less energy and resources used in getting their food to their house), and sense of well-being.

**Implication:** There is no shortage of very good reasons for having an allotment! And all of these things mentioned are worthy, and in line with local, national government and indeed global policies and guidelines for healthy, sustainable living.

## 11. What is the: A. Smallest acceptable size of plot, and B. Largest plot area desired?

**A.** With 23 responses, average was 350 sq ft = 32 sq m. Answers ranged from 100 sq ft to 900 sq ft.

**B.** With 22 responses, average was 925 sq ft = 86 sq m. Answers ranged from 200 sq ft to 3,000 sq ft.

**Implication:** Not everyone wants a full standard allotment of approximately 250 sq meters. In fact, the largest average plot desired is (86 sq meters) about one-third of a standard allotment. However, these somewhat off-the-cuff estimates of minimum/maximum land areas done by the respondents should not be construed by the Town Council or others as the final, definitive area of land they would settle for.

## 12. Have Mobility factors?

Of 29 respondent households, one had a wheelchair user who would wish to be involved with an allotment.

## 13. What would you want to grow?

Of the 39 respondent households, 77% would grow Vegetables, 69% would grow Fruit, and 36% would grow flowers/ornamentals.

## 14. Would want a poly-tunnel?

Of the 31 respondent households, 32% (10) would like to have the option of having a poly-tunnel, while 68% (21) would not want a poly-tunnel – though 4 of these would want to use a cloche on their plot.

**Implication:** While poly-tunnels appear to be a somewhat controversial item on allotments, one third of the respondents would like to have this option, which would need to be considered by the Town Council. If cloches are also an issue, this would need to be addressed.

## 15. Acceptable rent for 10ft x 20ft plot?

Due to receiving only 21 responses to this question, and with the amounts ranging from £10 to £100, the value of the information gained can only be minimal. Also, the rather small size of the suggested plot is in retrospect not realistic. Therefore the average figure of £30 should not be relied upon in this instance.

**Implication:** The question of "acceptable levels of rent" for an allotment needs to be more carefully considered closer to the time of the allotments coming into existence.

## 16. What information should be available on an allotment website?

Leading the list was "Seed-Plants Swap Info", followed by "Allotment Manager Contact info" and then "List of Available Plots". Links to "Online Gardening" information and the "Events List" also featured. The full list is shown below.

**Implication:** An “Allotments Website” would be a very welcome addition, to facilitate communication, networking and building relationships and community.

BBC Weather	14	36%
Seed-Plant Swap Info	24	62%
Events List	18	46%
Available Plots List	20	51%
Allotment Manager Contact Info	21	54%
Links to On-line Gardening Info	19	49%
List of Plot-Holders Specialisms	14	36%
List of Discounts from Local Suppliers	18	46%
Sponsors-Friends List	12	31%
Others: Blogs, Q & A, Photos, Produce to Swap, Advice for Novice Gardeners.		

## 17. Gender of Questionnaire Participants

Females: 52%    Males: 48%    **Implication:** a very even, natural gender representation.

## 18. Residence Type

	35	
Apartment-Flat	7	20%
Terraced	6	17%
Semi-Detached	14	40%
Detached	8	23%

## 19. Years Resident in Bakewell (household average)

Perhaps sadly, the largest Years-Resident group, at 37% of the total households responding, are those who have lived in Bakewell for 20+ years. This would seem, on the face of it, to imply that these specific respondents have been waiting a rather long time for an allotment! It of course also needs to be stated that, with Bakewell’s age profile matching or surpassing that of Eastbourne in terms of elderly residents, many of these elderly residents would understandably have been in Bakewell for many years. However, the next largest group are the 1-5 Year Residents, at 26%. Full results shown below.

**Implication:** Those who have been in Bakewell the longest, and are statistically more likely to be at or near retirement age, are showing their desire to, at last, get an allotment in Bakewell (maybe before it’s too late!). To the Bakewell Town Councillors, we say: “May it be so....”

## 20. Additional Comments offered by Respondents

1. As allotments are so good, for so many reasons, there should be an abundance of them, not a deficit!
2. As it is has been so difficult to obtain an allotment in Bakewell for so many years, there should be a restriction in place that prevents any one household from having more than one allotment, whether at Haddon Road, or at any newly created or re-created allotment sites.

**Implication:** These observations seem to be fair and self evident.

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21 September 2007