



# Allotments Seminar

'Lockdowns and leeks' – the growing importance of allotments



**7 October 2020**

Online Seminar

10:00 Welcome and Introduction

## Panel 1

### The State of the Market Results on Allotments 2020

- Covid-19 and the impact on allotments
- Results from the survey
- The future role of allotments

**Wayne Priestley, Principal Advisor, APSE**

### The Importance of having an Allotment Strategy

- Why do I need a strategy?
- What should my strategy include?
- The benefits a strategy can bring

**Mel Henley, APSE Associate**

### Derby City: Self-managed urban allotment sites

- Introduction and overview of allotments in Derby
- Self-management model – benefits and risks
- Collaborative working and ongoing support for self-management sites

**Ruth Bucknall, Derby City Council**

### From compost to computers- digitising the management of allotments

Colony Allotments Management Software is a powerful app that helps you to accurately record and manage every aspect of your allotment management.

From inspections to invoicing, to tenancies and waiting list applications, Colony allows unlimited users to access one accessible, central and secure database to help you stay on top of legislation and your obligations as a service provider.

**Peter Hollis, MD, MCPC Systems**

## Audience question and answer session

11:15 Virtual coffee break

## Panel 2

### Developing new and refurbishing existing allotment sites – A success story

- Looking at meeting growing demands
- Gaining funding and developing partnership
- What we have achieved and future aims

**Annie Surtees Greenspace and Street scene Manager, Salford City Council**

### The Organic allotment - how to get nature on your side

- The key principles of organic growing
- The steps you can take towards more sustainable food growing.
- How to work with natural environmental processes to sustain good yields of healthy food.

**Anton Rosenfeld, Garden Organic**

### Allotments and Biodiversity – Gardening in harmony with Nature

- Identifying the opportunities for biodiversity
- What and how will we attract flora and fauna?
- The benefits gained through working with nature.

**Sandy Paterson, Natural Environment Officer (Growing Spaces), Glasgow City Council**

### Developing a Community Food Hub - an urban horticulture hub that joins up inclusive community gardening with commercial organic food production – a case study Woodbank Community Food Hub, Stockport

- How the idea came about.
- What exactly is a community food hub?
- The benefits gained

**Chris Walsh, The Kindling Trust**

## Audience question and answer session

13:00 Event close

## About the event

The strange times we now find ourselves in has led many to reassess their lifestyles. From being very much a 24/7 consumer driven culture, many are now adopting a more reflective approach where personal mental and physical well-being are becoming more important than material wealth.

Part of that reassessment involves our long overdue reconnection with the natural world. During the current pandemic, our local greenspaces have become sanctuaries for many when other leisure pursuits have been closed to us.

Gardening and growing our own food, has increased in popularity as the restrictions of lock-down have taken their toll. Nowhere has this been more apparent in the huge increase in the demand for allotments.

Figures released by the National Allotment Society (NAS) revealed that of the councils which responded to a recent survey, over 40% reported a "significant uplift" in applications to join waiting lists, with a 300% increase in one case

This increase in demand is set against a 65% decline in the total area of allotment land available caused by the growing demand for new housing land.

This worrying figure is made all the more stark, when we consider recent figures show that with regards to personal greenspace, as much as one in eight of the UK population have no access to a garden, the figures are even worse in London where one in five do not access to a garden.

Perhaps now is the time to take stock of the current state of our allotments and look at how local authorities and allotment groups across the UK are: managing their current allotment sites, introducing new allotment sites and making allotment sites more sustainable and environmentally friendly. The seminar will also look at how some are even introducing digital apps to manage these valuable assets.

Finally, we will see how some organisations have gone one stage further and are developing community food hubs to help address issues such as food security, healthier eating, community cohesion and the promotion of organic food growing.

It is against this backdrop of increasing interest and demand that APSE's 2020 Allotment Seminar intends to highlight best practice and innovation to secure the long-term future of these valuable environmental and community assets.

Therefore, the seminar is a **MUST ATTEND EVENT** for those officers and members who want to look at new ways of dealing with allotment and community food growing issues.

## Presentations

This seminar has been designed to look at as wide a range of topics affecting allotments as possible, including:

- Feedback on the results of APSE State of the Market report 2020 which concentrates on the responses to many of the questions currently being considered by those officers and elected members tasked with sustaining allotments in their area.
- Consideration will also be given to just how important it is to have a clear and accountable plan for your council's allotments by creating a costed and time measurable strategy with clear aims and objectives to allow allotments to receive political, financial and community support.
- Self-management by allotment societies is becoming a critical factor in securing both the quality and more importantly the future of these precious sites. Delegates will hear how one local authority has invested heavily on this approach and the benefits this has brought.
- So often we hear about the threats faced by allotments sites from the need for new development land. We will hear how one authority, working closely with its communities, has not only refurbished many of its allotment sites, but has also created new ones.
- Like everything else, allotments have now entered the digital age. Delegates will hear how Colony, a powerful app, allows unlimited users to accurately record and manage every aspect of allotment management, from inspections to tenancies and waiting list applications.
- The issue of growing organically has 'grown' in importance for many allotment holders, as stories of the dangers of certain herbicides and pesticides have grabbed front page news. More and more allotment holders are looking at more environmentally-friendly approaches to growing their crops and flowers and the seminar will look at how such methods can be introduced onto their allotment sites.
- Along with organic growing methods, biodiversity and the importance of allotment sites as habitats for a wide variety of flora and fauna will also be discussed. Pollinators and other insects are under considerable threat as are many species of wildflowers and local wildlife. Allotment sites can offer important sanctuaries for such species without sacrificing crops and flowers grown by allotment holders.
- Taking things one stage further, we will hear how one organisation has turned a one and a half acre site, which was previously a Council plant nursery, into a community food hub with the aim of using community food growing scheme which wants to transform our current food system into one which is fairer, healthier for people, and better for the environment.

Therefore, by providing a range of diverse and interesting speakers, APSE hopes to show there is still light at the end of the tunnel for our allotment sites and that the information provided will help colleagues in their future roles to save and preserve some of the nation's greatest treasures for future generations.

## Who should attend?

- Chief executives
- Elected members
- Service directors
- Parks, grounds maintenance, horticulture, landscape and green space professionals
- Climate change officers
- Biodiversity officers
- Policy officers
- Trade union representatives
- Parks/landscape consultants
- Academic researchers
- Contractors and suppliers
- Voluntary organisations

## Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

### What's included?

*The delegate fee covers attendance, and documentation including a video showreel following the event.*

APSE member delegate fee:	<b>£99 + VAT</b>
Non member delegates fee:	<b>£149 + VAT</b>
Commercial delegates:	<b>£249 + VAT</b>

**CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:** Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to [SCull@apse.org.uk](mailto:SCull@apse.org.uk). Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.

**Reserve your place now by completing the [online booking form](#).**

**Access to the seminar will be via an online link but you will need access to a web browser.**