**Allotment Survey Mach Maethlon/Edible Mach 18/10/22**

**Methodology**

An online survey was carried out between September and October 22 to invite people to register their interest and support for the creation of more allotments with in the Machynlleth area. The survey was sent out via Mach Maethlon on social media and the list was available at a pop-up event in Machynlleth. People were also directed to request that their names be added to the allotment waiting list via the Town Council if they hadn’t already done this.

**Results**

49 responses were received.

***Do you think that individuals should have access to land to be able to grow food for their household?***

49 or 100% responded yes.

***Do you think more land should be made available for allotments in the Machynlleth area?***

48 or 97% responded yes

***If more allotments were available, would you want one?***

33 responded yes, 67% of the total respondents

15 responded that they wouldn’t want one, but that they were in support of more land being made available for allotments in the Machynlleth.

***I have a small allotment but would like a bigger allotment if one were available***

10 of the respondents already had an allotment, and would like a bigger allotment if one were available

***If you are not in Machynlleth town, where do you live?***

24/49 – 48 % live in Machynlleth

25/49 – 51% live in surrounding villages

**Number of people currently on the waiting list held by Machynlleth Town Council**

Julie to provide this information

**Summary**

There are only a small number of allotments available within Machynlleth and some people stating that they have been on the waiting list for a number of years. Almost ¾ of respondents expressed a want for an allotment and a further group who already have an allotment expressing that they would like a larger allotment. The majority of the respondents were in support of their being more allotments available, even if they didn’t want one themselves

**Limitations of the survey**

It’s acknowledged that this was a ‘quick’ survey and was in the main part advertised via social media and therefore there are likely to be many other people who did not participate in the survey.

***Additional comments made by respondents***

-Several unused or drastically underused on the Garsiwn plots. Council don't seem to inspect though. how can it be right for a plot not to be used for 2 years?

-So many people in the local area do not have garden space and need the opportunity to be able to grow their own food. Any increase in the land provided to do this would be wonderful.

-I've got an allotment in mach and I love it but I would like more space. I produce a lot of veg for my family but I'm short on space for things like composting, comfrey patch, fruit trees and bushes.

-We really need more available growing space and more allotments would tie in with the local composting startup. There's absolutely no reason why we shouldn't have more. Food resilience here should be about growing seasonal veg, and the town is surrounded by suitable fields, many of which are owned by the town.

-Land within walking distance of town should be made available for broader community supported agriculture

-I went on the allotment list 2 years ago and haven't heard anything since.

-I’d love more allotments to be made available in Aberystwyth too - access to land to grow food is so important

-Supply water to the existing allotments would be good. Perhaps make use of ‘planning gain’ from the new road to have this funded free by the contractors.

-I work in Machynlleth and spend more time here than Dolglau. And allotment I cod tend before during and after work would change my quality of life

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| -I already have a good sized allotment, but know so many people who would like one. I would also like to see more community growing spaces eg food forest areas.  |
| -Allotments in local villages would be very helpful as we wouldn't be able to travel to town to maintain an allotment on a regular basis |
| -I have been on the allotment waiting list for about three years, I’ve never heard back from them-Food security is an incredibly important issue for our time. When I lived in town I was on the allotment waiting list for a year or so unsuccessfully, before moving back out to the villages. I know quite a few friends who would like allotments in town, and some have been on the waiting list for a year or longer. Our town has enough people with the skills and the motivation to become pretty self-sufficient in locally grown food - as well as having existing small producer networks and the market - if only land were made available to more people for growing. |
| -I'm well connected with Mach, and work as a grower in the area. I know of lots of people who would benefit from access to land to grow on. I think there needs to be a wider variety of sizes of allotments, from very tiny ones for beginners, to much larger plots for the more experienced. A shared polytunnel to bring on seedlings or grow tender crops would be a great resource, especially with water collection, which is possible from polytunnels now.  |
| -Yes agree we need space individually, would be interesting to explore collective allotmenting outside of traditional selling models eg CSA, not for profit models |
| -In a time of uncertain supply, rising prices, and the need to rapidly reduce emissions, allotments offer a powerful mix of co-benefits, including increased wellbeing and community cohesion. Happy to help in any way. |
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| -A manure distribution network for area's gardens. |

**Reference**

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/allotments-and-community-growing-guidance-local-authorities-town-community-councils_0.pdf>

Cited from within this document