

# An introduction to the Allotment Regeneration Initiative



The

# Allotments

Regeneration Initiative



[www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari)

# **ARI is a partnership project**

## **Main partners:**

- **National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners**
- **Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens**

## **ARI is funded by:**

- **The Big Lottery**
- **Department of Communities and Local Government**
- **Fund for the Environmental and Urban Life**



# How did ARI come about?

- Partnership developed from working together on *Growing in the Community*
- £500k initial funding from The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation



## ARI's Vision:

“To get more people – individuals and community groups growing on allotments”.

# Aims

- Support and develop allotments regeneration and the creation of brand new allotment sites in the UK.
- Gather and disseminate information about good practice in allotments management.
- Maintain and develop profile of allotments with public and government.
- Encourage sustained devolved management by allotment associations as the primary volunteer and community-based actor in allotment regeneration.

# Who do ARI help and support?

- Plot holders
- Allotment associations and allotments societies
- Local council allotments officers and elected members of councils at all levels (from parish to unitary)
- Local community groups
- Statutory organisations such as schools, NHS, SureStart, the probation service, police and fire service
- NGOs and charities, such as Age Concern, BTCV, Friends of the Earth, Garden Organic, Groundwork Trusts, MIND, RSPCA and Wildlife Trusts
- Voluntary and community agencies
- Potential plot holders, councils, private landowners, farmers, housing associations and developers wishing to create new allotment sites
- Government and representative groups such as DCLG and the LGA.

# Support is achieved by:

- Mentor network nationwide
  - English government regions (9)
  - Scotland (3)
  - Wales (1)
  - Northern Ireland (1)
- Working with DCLG
- Publications/resources
  - Growing in the community/A place to grow
  - Plot holders guide
  - Factsheets (12)
- Allotment Officer Forum

# Allotment Officers' Forum



- Facilitated by ARI Mentors with support from ARI Officers
- Held as one day even on 2 occasions per year



# Aims of A.O.F.

- Promote good practice in allotment management in the region
- Promote resources that can facilitate good practice
- Develop models of good practice from the event
- Facilitate the development of supportive networks
- Access organisations that can give help and support
- Offer constructive and productive delivery.

# Feedback from A.O.F.

- “A very welcome initiative for someone who is new to allotments” (SW AOF)
- “Good networking opportunity” (NE AOF)
- “This is an excellent format/forum to enable networking for allotments officers to engage with” (NW AOF)
- “It’s very important to have a supportive network – it makes me feel that I’m not a lone voice, that others have just as many appalling sites as I have and I am not struggling on my own. I have picked up lots of good ideas as well” (NW AOF)
- “Great to hear other peoples issues – sharing problems – feel less overwhelmed with issues” (NW AOF)



# Allotment Officers Forum



- The Future
- Supporting and training Allotment Officers



**For more info about ARI**

- Visit [www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari)**
- Take a newsletter or postcard**

