

North Ayrshire Food Forum

December 2020

Winter Update

It's still a challenging time for us all.

It's been some time since the forum met, however food and growing is still integral to our daily work. We know many of you continue to lead and strengthen the community response as we move in to the winter period. Let's keep up the good work!

If you, or someone you know, needs help over the Christmas period please contact 01294 310000. You can get help with things like accessing food, prescriptions and wellbeing. Emergency out of hours provision will be in place. Our community partners are also providing a wide range of support over the Christmas period.

Community Food Growing Sites

Up to date guidance for the safe use of community gardens and allotments in light of the current Covid-19 situation is available on the Scottish Government website at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/corona-virus-covid-19-community-food-growing-spaces/>.

The guidance applies to all forms of community food-growing sites such as community gardens and allotment sites, including communal growing areas of allotment sites and is for all all visitors, users and volunteers of community food-growing sites.



Access to funding

North Ayrshire Council manages grant schemes that offer funding to groups, individuals and other organisations.

The North Ayrshire Virtual Funding Centre is an online Facebook group that contains information and discussion on these schemes and how you can apply. You can find out more about the Virtual Funding Centre by visiting

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthAyrshireCommunityFunding>

You can also find out about what funds are available through North Ayrshire Council via their website at <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/your-community/community-funding.aspx>

Food Standards Consultation

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) would like your views on their new strategy for 2021-26. The new strategy aims to take account of the changing social, political and environmental factors which are affecting our food environment, and the challenges around protecting it.

The FSS would like feedback from everyone who has an interest in the wider food environment in Scotland. For more information, and to get involved, visit

<https://consult.foodstandards.gov.scot/communications-marketing/food-standards-scotland-strategy-2021-2026/>



Transforming Scotland's convenience stores

To increase sales of fresh, healthy Scottish produce, Scottish consumers are being encouraged to 'Go Local' as part of a new initiative that will transform local convenience stores into marketplaces selling more local produce. The initial phase of this initiative will see £100,000 invested in ten local shops to increase the space given to Scottish products, broaden the range of Scottish products offered and enhance consumer engagement with Scottish products.

The Go Local programme will be delivered by the Scottish Grocers Federation (SGF), with Scotland Food & Drink supporting on the local sourcing elements of the project. Grants will be awarded for the installation of new equipment dedicated to locally sourced Scottish products on a 50% match-funding basis, capped at £10,000.

Allotments Research

A new study reveals women with allotment plots now outnumber men for the first time. A recent study by Dr Tilly Collins and Ellen Fletcher of Imperial College London, found that in London almost two thirds of plots - 64% - are now occupied by women. The National Allotment Society estimates that half of holders nationally are now women - compared to just two percent in 1973.

You can read more at

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/gardens-to-visit/have-men-finally-lost-plot-female-owned-allotments-booming/>

Mapping Report

The expansive UK food system has been mapped and quantified in a new report that reveals both the value of the agri-food sector and the multiple challenges it faces. The ground-breaking report maps and quantifies the UK food system, which will act as a quantified foundation for further analyses of the UK food system. Read the report at <https://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/food/downloads/Mapping-the-UK-food-system-digital.pdf>

