

## ***1. Summary of Great Big Food Growing Project***

Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) presents The Great Big Food Growing project. A plan to bring food growing to one of the most built up parts of London.

Through employment of one and a half staff, and provision of resources and events, BOST will be able to involve individuals by targeted work on some of the social housing estates in SE1. The new Great Big Food Growing Project Facilitator will co-ordinate volunteers and other staff through the process. Working with the Community Gardener Educator, and Volunteers, we will recruit residents by door knocking and discussion, on estates, encouraging them to attend a Great Vegetable Giveaway (GVG) event. These events will engage possible food growers providing all they need to set up a small taster food project on their balcony, along with fun children's activities, but more importantly will contribute to community bonding and will give us a medium to build consensus around developing more permanent food growing projects on estate lands where there is room for this.

We will help residents to develop food growing space targeting at least 9 estate grounds with at least 24 projects including raised beds, containers, and direct planting. Compost heaps will be set up where there are suitable space, and willing residents, and we will work with the residents to target local cafes to add raw food waste to the compost heaps.

BOST will facilitate food growing clubs on at least a monthly basis. While open to everyone, we will use the food growing clubs to support the residents who will benefit most from regular participation. Benefits will include a sense of shared success and purpose, regular exercise, social contact, very fresh food, and opportunities for problem solving. Regular planning meetings will be held with active residents, usually following on from gardening club sessions. We will hold an annual Harvest Festival event for each group of residents, and use this as a chance to share produce, and gather evaluation information.

In tandem to this we will work with local schools and children's groups, to set up and facilitate food growing clubs. We will work with the schools to identify children who would most benefit to participate in these clubs.

Wherever possible, we will use food growing to contribute to cross cultural celebration. This might be through culturally themed GVG events and harvest festivals, or simply by sharing food and recipes from different countries. We have found that food growing provides an ideal medium for discussions on different cultures.

The Great Big Food Growing Project will begin in spring 2010 and be lead by BOST in our core geographical area around SE1. It will build on the success of an earlier pilot project (2005), a single demonstration project (Brookwood Triangle established 2007) and recent surveys and requests for help.