

**APPENDIX A – ENVIRONMENT & AMENITIES COMMITTEE – AUSTIN PLACE
COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Good morning

I am a resident in Austin Place, Abingdon. I am writing to you, on behalf of my neighbours, to propose a community garden for residents in Austin Place and neighbouring streets.

We are requesting to use an area of land in front of the old Dunmore Pre-school, to create a small community garden. It is split in two sections separated by a path and we are asking to use the right of this land, nearest to Austin Place. I have attached some supporting photos and a rough diagram. We will position at a good distance from the neighbouring fence and paths.

Our proposal is for 2-3 raised beds (to help those with limited abilities), wildlife housing (bird boxes, hedgehog etc.) and some fruit trees (more than one to allow pollination). However, we would also like to request the option to replace the raised beds with further fruit trees with lower ground bedding of flowers, herbs etc.

Should all residents support this and it be successful and monitored, to have the opportunity to expand on the same patch of grass, upon request at a later date.

Our vision is to create an area to:

- give people of all generations the chance to meet and get active outdoors;
- help improve the mental wellbeing of those most vulnerable to loneliness, stress and anxiety;
- to introduce children to the importance of growing their own produce; and
- to contribute to the preservation of diversity by introducing a local flora and fauna habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects and to allow different species of plants, animals and insects to thrive.

Overall: an area of unused grassed land would provide ample opportunities to create a beautiful place for people and nature to enjoy.

I would like to mention that Abingdon Carbon Cutters have very kindly offered their support and advice for our project, allowing us to be a sub-group should our proposal be successful.

I hope you will consider our request and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards
Sarah