

# Lambeth Gipsy Hill Food Village Hub

## A Community-led asset based approach to positively influencing the local food system

Authors: Vida Cunningham Public Health Specialist and Bimpe Oki Public Health Consultant



### INTRODUCTION

The London borough of Lambeth is an inner city area, densely populated, multicultural and with high levels of deprivation. Like many inner city areas, the population faces challenges to its food system impacting on health and wellbeing.

In 2014 Lambeth was awarded the status of Food Flagship. This status provided the opportunity to take part in new and exciting food related programmes.

The vision was for all residents to develop a love of healthy and sustainable food and for everyone to have the knowledge, passion and skills to grow, buy, cook and enjoy food with their family, friends and community.

As part of the Lambeth Food Flagship Programme a 'Food Village Hub' initiative was implemented in Gipsy Hill, a deprived ward within the borough. The purpose was to take a community led approach to developing a healthy and sustainable food environment in a small geographical area.

The initiative aimed to test out a residents' led localised approach by:

- Releasing local potential through knowledge, skills and networking
- Providing opportunities e.g. employment to ensure sustainability beyond the project
- Supporting and building on local assets and cohesion by facilitating stronger connections between the different communities themselves and relevant local organisations and services



### METHOD

A multi-method approach was taken which included:

- Area baseline research, asset mapping and stakeholder engagement- this approach also provided information on the food and health activities that were taking place in the ward
- Consultation with residents using a multi-method approach to identify the key priority issues around food including using specific techniques to capture the views of the "less- heard voices" e.g. older people, BME groups, those with mental and physical disabilities
- Development and implementation of resident led food related projects. Examples included the development of a local market selling fruits and vegetable, fruit and tree planting projects, developing healthy eating projects to support vulnerable individuals at risk of food poverty, and accredited nutrition courses to build knowledge and capacity within the ward
- Embedding sustainability plans within the community food projects to support continuity beyond the initial funding period
- Capturing learning through on-going review and evaluation



### RESULTS

- Over 14,000 households had the opportunity to engage and identify solutions to food issues
  - Residents were supported to develop ideas and submit project proposals based on the food issues and suggestions that had been identified by residents and stakeholders
  - Projects were funded and delivered by residents and local community organisations. These included, nutrition training, community tree planting and growing, aquaponics ,
- a fruit and vegetable market, food poverty and waste projects and recruitment of a young apprentice.
  - Development of network and strengthening of co-operation within communities
  - Some of the projects also created employment opportunities and for some to use the opportunity to 'test' their business ideas and to learn from the experience for future use



### CONCLUSION

The evaluation of the project showed that the activities undertaken to meet the objectives of the project resulted in:

- Raising awareness of local food issues, enhancing connectivity and community engagement in the ward
- Building relationships within and between stakeholders and across borough organisations
- Enabling sustainability and legacy by building on local assets, knowledge and expertise – for example some of the projects have continued and are attracting additional funding
- Networks have been established and the evaluation has generated learning that can be applicable Lambeth wide

### Lambeth Food Flagship

Nurturing the love of good food in the borough



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