

Dear Ruth

My notes below for distribution to Juniper residents.

I think we're on the same wavelength. Please check.

I think we should combine the two if possible for a final report, plus a 'next step' clause.

Yours

Rob

(The [Crocuses](#) in the lawn are just coming out. The [Dog Violets](#) will be next.)

23/01/2026

'• Additional perennials and mixed annuals for raised bed opposite flats 52-54. Possible vegetable or fruit site.

- Agreement with the general principle of filling vacant space in beds.*
 - Ruth offered broad support for Juniper gardening initiatives, and appreciated the potential of the space, both as a site for further species diversity, and to promote food production. Advice and a range of weekend workshops are available*
 - Ruth suggested the installation of roof-beds on the pramsheds. This would require a CGS grant.*
 - Mehmet was invited to suggest species for introduction. Logs, tree stumps and wood-chips are available from LBS for garden design use.*
 - Ruth was sympathetic with re-siting the granite blocks near flat 1, to re-use as a hard border to the Hazel Wood.*
 - Ruth able to help with required servicing of rainwater butts. And exchange of units if needed.*
 - The group was surprised to hear that management of the border opposite flats 1 - 26 adjacent to Colls Road has not been LBS responsibility for two years. The reason given being the number of plants on the site donated by residents, or which were planted as part of previous projects. This would seem to which requires further clarification.*
- Moronke and Mehmet agreed that LBS would remove undesirable plants from the border on request from Juniper Garden Group.'*

GARDEN REPORT 23/01/2026.

Ruth Arnott. Community Gardening Coordinator / Parks, Trees & Ecology

Just following up with my notes from last Friday. Can you email back with anything to add or change and then we can make a start on the ideas mentioned. It is easier if each area is either looked after by gardening group or GM rather than a combination so that is something to think about for your group's capacity.

Re/ the food growing Orsetta and I can send the info I mention below and come and visit again if useful. Were you planning on building the beds yourself or paying someone to build? We can suggest some local handy people who can source the recycled plastic too.

Best wishes,
Ruth

Notes re/ 23 Jan site visit to Juniper House, Pomoroy St re Community Gardening

Residents: Rob and Coralie from Juniper TRA/Gardening group

LBS staff: Mehmet (GM), Moronke (RSO), Ruth (Community Gardening)

Aim of visit: Looking at opportunities and confirming maintenance agreements and areas for community gardening by residents. Introducing support available from Community Gardening team. Including any feedback from RSO and GM.

Background: Long standing resident involvement in gardening group. Currently about 4 active gardeners. They have some funding. Previously was a TMO.

Different areas:

- *Large brick bed on outside of block.* Potential for shrubs/ wildflower meadow (do group want to take this on?) Has quite a lot of empty space in it – could be suitable for different types of planting (does have sunlight) but would probably need to block out current weedbank (green alkanet, ground elder present).
- *Pram shed roof* – could be potential for green roof – need structural engineer report or could have structure on top. Potential CGS application for later in year.
- *Main gardens*
- *Wildlife garden*
- *2 beds with logs as edging* Wildlife garden and these 2 beds are clear areas that are looked after by group, GM happy with that and will leave to gardening group. GM cut grass and cut back annually shrubs etc in other areas
- *Long bed along pathway*

Issues:

- Gardening group asking about getting regular green waste collection. The brown bin garden waste collection isn't available to community gardens and a regular GM removal of waste would be a cost. Ruth suggests composting on site – group have concerns – suggested Veolia 'dalek' compost bins to keep neater. Also absorb green waste into site edges – ie using at bottom of raised beds or as they have used the hazel to weave hurdles as edging.
- Compost Dr session could be useful or part of food growing support from Community Gardening team. We mentioned they could get woodchip or logs from council teams. Potential for composting on site and the occasional help from GM if a particular extra load of green waste (Mehmet to confirm)
- They have at least 4 big water tanks collecting a lot of rainwater. Unfortunately causing damp against wall. They have asked Communal Repairs to remove and replace (were installed by CGS a few years ago). Suggest empty, move away from walls a bit more (they expand when full) and have slabs underneath to raise up so watering can fit underneath. Often they are on uneven ground. If the tanks angled so water ran off the front of them rather than down the back then wouldn't be a problem. Last year they had sufficient water from the rain water collection to water all. No outside tap. Update: one of the tanks needs to be moved as the

(Notes re/ 23 Jan site visit to Juniper House Page 2)
Ruth Arnott

Ctd:

resident doesn't want it next to their wall now. CG team asked if this tank could be used somewhere else at another community garden unless it can be re-used within Juniper.

- Large bed at back – not sure they want to take it on but have been planting there. Mehmet said GM haven't been doing maintenance in that area for 2 years as residents have been planting there. Rob wanted the ground elder and other small trees removed. Moronke suggested this be raised in writing as a specific job.

Food growing area on hardstanding

- There is water capture probably near enough
- Gardening group want a structure which would have more water capture
- Become part of network (newsletter, put on Good to Grow map)
- They would like a community gardener to do sessions there, CG can fund this if there are 5 or more people interested in attending
- They have done a consultation about the structure – need to share that as part of the agreement
- CG team to share offer of free veg seedlings from Burgess Park Community Plant Nursery
- CG team to share info about advice re/ recycled plastic beds
- Community Gardening team can make the governance and maintenance agreement based on all the sites

Next steps:

- Community Gardening team make an agreement for garden so clear who doing what
- Community Gardening team to add group to network
- Give further advice re food growing and about potential training sessions?

Ruth Arnott

Community Gardening Coordinator / Parks, Trees & Ecology

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(Green Party Garden advice)

Routes we could take:

1. Ask for consultation

- Has there already been consultation? If not, we could formally ask Southwark Council:
 - What consultation has taken place to date
 - How residents' views have been considered
 - Whether an Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out, given the impact on children, older residents and community wellbeing
- If consultation has not been adequate, this is often a strong basis for asking the council to pause or review its decision.

2. Check the legal basis for the decision

This is more complicated and you would have to review your own documents but it helps to clarify what authority the council is relying on. This could include:

- Reviewing lease terms to understand residents' rights to use and enjoy the garden
 - Asking the council to provide the written policy, risk assessment or evidence underpinning the claim about weapons being hidden
 - Clarifying whether this is a site-specific decision or part of a wider policy
- If the garden was a material feature when flats were sold, or if leaseholder rights are affected, this may strengthen your position.

3. Media pressure

We could consider engaging Southwark News with a clear, human story about the value of the garden. We can help you contact the paper and draft the article if this is a route you wish to pursue.

...

P.S '**Secured by Design**'. ([Phineas Harper](#). 2022. Guardian.)

*"...police officers descended on public green spaces in Stanhope, .. [took away five benches](#) and uprooted low-lying shrubs from small parks. In a since deleted tweet, Ashford Police explained that the benches had provided "**places to gather**" and their removal would **help "design out crime"**. The chief inspector of Ashford [Police](#) explained that removing the benches and shrubbery were part of a temporary trial to "**prevent antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas** Founded during the latter years of the Thatcher government, **Secured by Design** gives police significant influence over the architecture and design of public spaces. Under the programme, officers develop and publish neighbourhood design guides with recommendations such as advocating the "use of single seats or stools set several metres apart" rather than park benches, and warning against "providing too many" footpaths. ... None of the police design guides are part of government building regulations, meaning they are not legal requirements and are **not subject to democratic consultation...** ".*