



Comber Community Garden Proposal

Comber Regeneration Community Partnership
in conjunction with Comber Horticultural and District Society

January 2014

Bringing Communities Together

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Comber Community Garden Proposal

A. Overview

The Comber Amenity Site at Glen Link, Comber has recently been vacated. The site is owned by Ards Borough Council. The site is of considerable interest to the local community who would wish this site to be an asset to the Town and its residents. Comber Regeneration Community Partnership would like to take over responsibility for this site in conjunction with Comber Horticultural and District Society to create a Comber Community Garden.

B. Purpose

It is proposed that the site would be converted into a horticultural area containing 2 polytunnels / greenhouse with raised beds around the borders. Open hard stand areas will be used for pots and containers. Comber Horticultural will provide the volunteers to create the garden. The garden will be used to grow both flowers and vegetables including hanging baskets, flower towers and planters. It is intended that the Garden will provide educational areas for local schools which have already shown considerable interest in using this facility. The garden will also compliment the proposed Comber Public Realm project. It is also intended that the Garden be used by local Mental Health/Learning Disability Charities as a working and therapy facility. A core Team from Comber Horticultural will provide custodian, maintenance and technical services for the ongoing management of the Garden. A number of volunteers have already come forward.

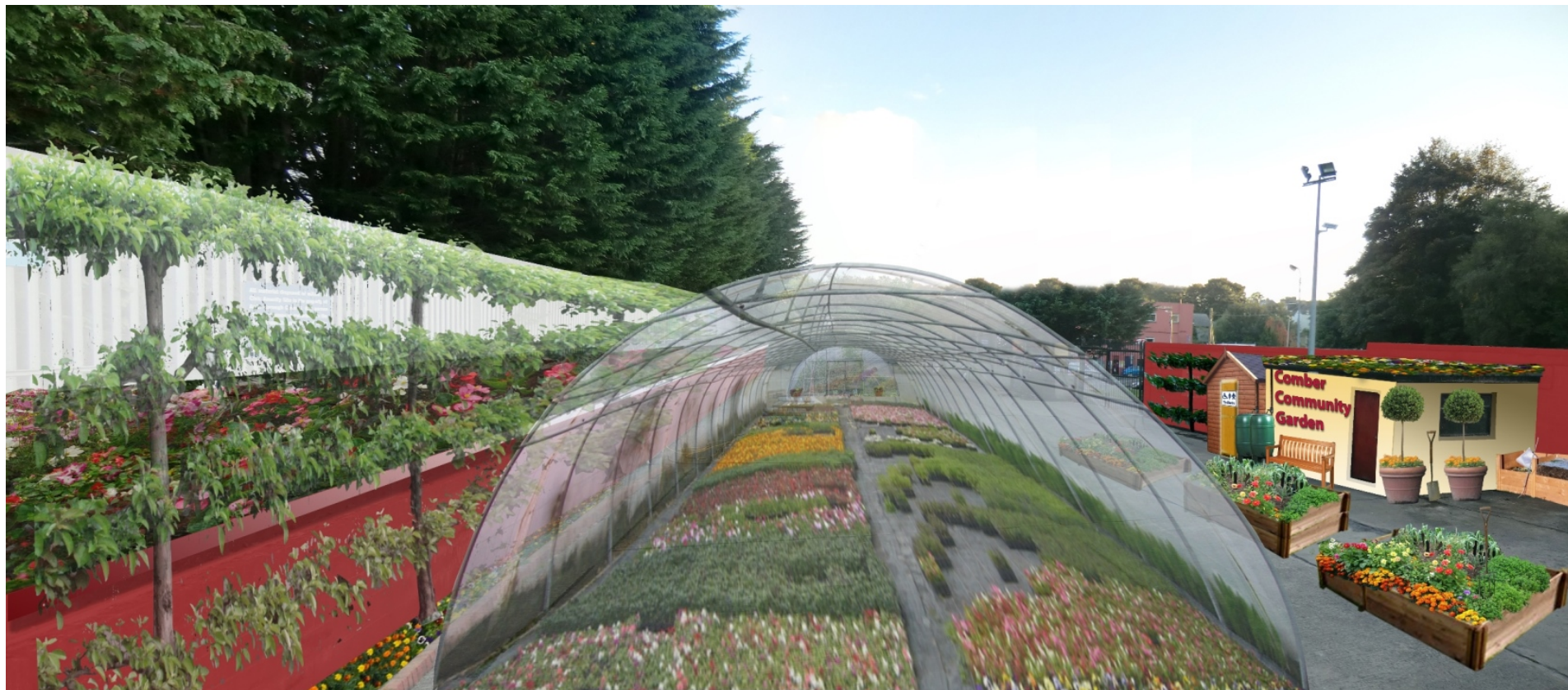
The produce from the garden will be used to provide flowers to enhance the town for use in borders, beds and hanging baskets. This will be done in liaison with the Council and Roads Service to enhance the appearance of the Town and encourage visitors and footfall for the shops. Any monies raised from sales of produce will be used to fund the maintenance of the facility.

We would also like to have a close relationship with the Parks Department and also the Fire Station personnel on the adjacent site. Local businesses have also indicated support.

Site Location



Proposed Layout - Photomontage



Proposed Layout - Plan



Letters of Support: Primary Schools



Building a Legacy

10 January 2014

Dear Members of the Comber Regeneration Community Partnership

I am writing with a view to extending the school's wholehearted support for your application to fund a Comber Community Garden on the site of the former refuse facility.

I feel that such a garden offers valuable potential for the whole Comber community to maintain and develop a space that would be of benefit to all generations in the town.

In Andrews we have been developing a hugely successful intergenerational project over the past three years, and this idea would add yet another interesting and exciting perspective on that front. Also, as an Eco School committed to outdoor learning, we have a natural affinity towards the idea of a community garden; offering the children the potential for further skills development in plant husbandry to supplement those they are already engaged in on our own site. Every year group here grows and harvests a crop, whether in the vegetable garden or the polytunnel. Perhaps we could even offer our own skilled practitioners to assist those in your group?!

I sincerely hope that you are successful with your application. This idea is for the good of everyone in the town, and we can guarantee you our full support at any stage in the project's development.

Kind regards

Ralph

Ralph Magee

Principal : Ralph W Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)

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SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD

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Daragh Road
COMBER
Co. Down
BT23 5BX

12/12/13

Dear Sir/Madam,

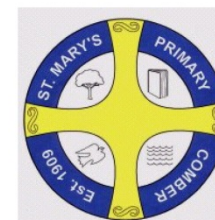
The proposed regeneration of the old recycling centre is an idea that we at Comber Primary School are keen to support. We look forward to hearing in more detail the plans for the site and how it will help to make Comber an even more beautiful and worthwhile place to live.

In the meantime I happily write of our intent to support this worthwhile plan.

Yours faithfully,

C Logan

Principal



St Mary's Primary School
Killinchy Street,
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Principal: Mrs. M. Eccles B.Sc.,(Hon) PGCE., PQH (NI)

To Comber Regeneration Community Partnership

Further to our discussion regarding environmental improvement in the town, St Mary's fully supports the plans of the Community Regeneration Partnership.

We look forward to working with you and the other schools in Comber on the Community Garden at Glen Link, which will ultimately help to improve the local environment.

Kind regards

MRS. M. ECCLES,
PRINCIPAL.

14th January 2014