



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 21st November 2013

International recognition for Brighton & Hove urban food growing

An innovative Brighton & Hove planning policy has been awarded an Honourable Mention by the World Green Building Council.

The Food Growing and Development Planning Advice Note (PAN) has resulted in an increase from 1 to 38% in the amount of approved planning applications that contain food growing.

The PAN was awarded the Honourable Mention alongside policies from Shanghai and Cape Town by the judges of the World Green Building Council Government Leadership Awards and it was announced at a press event at the COP 19 conference in Warsaw.

The PAN, which was highly commended in the innovation category of the London and South East Construction in Excellence Awards earlier this year, has also been nominated for an award in the Royal Town Planning Institute South East Awards, which will be announced on Thursday 21st November.

Jess Crocker, Manager of the Harvest Project at the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership said: "From balcony planters to rooftop allotments, developers have really embraced the idea that food growing can be incorporated in to new urban developments, in any way possible.

"We promote urban growing as both a way of producing food on your doorstep and boosting people's mental and physical wellbeing whilst learning about the resources that go in to the food we eat. It's fantastic to gain this international recognition for our work."

The PAN was developed by Food Matters, Brighton & Hove City Council and the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership. It was introduced in September 2011 with the aim of weaving food growing in to the fabric of development sites and the urban environment, on whatever scale is appropriate.

New applications that have been approved since the PAN was introduced include plans for edible landscaping, rooftop allotments, productive green walls and roofs and planters on balconies. A major city centre development providing student accommodation has proposed raised beds for growing, green walls and fruit trees as part of their application.

Food Matters have now produced a briefing document that encourages other cities to enact similar planning policy in their own areas.

Martin Randall, Head of Public Planning & Public Protection at Brighton & Hove City Council, said: “For many years the council has applied challenging planning policies to secure sustainable new development that exceeds central government requirements.

“This Planning Advice Note is both promotional and practical, providing guidance on how food growing can be incorporated into developments.

“The document is now achieving extraordinary success in delivering food growing in new developments, weaving food growing into the city in the form of fruit trees, productive landscaping and community allotment gardens.”

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For more information contact:

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Notes for Editors:

- 1. The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership** – The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership is a non-profit, membership organisation which is working for a healthier, more sustainable food system for the city. We believe all residents should be able to enjoy food that is good for people, respects environmental limits and supports a vibrant farming and food economy. We drive forward progress on the city's food strategy ‘Spade to Spoon: Digging Deeper’, campaign on local and national food issues and deliver a range of community-based cookery, nutrition and growing projects. www.bhfood.org.uk
- 2. Harvest Brighton and Hove** is a partnership project led by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership that helps more people to grow their own and eat local food. Since 2009, Harvest has helped double the number of community gardens in the city to more than 70, including new spaces like parks, estates and rail stations. Harvest offers information and courses on growing your own and help publicise volunteer opportunities, including those at the demonstration vegetable garden in Preston Park. Harvest also support businesses and community groups that sell, cook or grow local food. The Harvest project has featured in national reports, TV and press as a pioneering urban agriculture project. In 2013, the Harvest project won the prestigious ‘Community Food Growing Award’ at the National Lottery’s Local Food Awards. www.harvest-bh.org.uk