



Scottish Allotments
and Gardens Society

OUR 5 POINT PROPOSITION

Today there are about 300 allotment sites across Scotland with almost 8000 plots. Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society reckons that about 1 plot per 100 population is needed for the future and the **Community Empowerment Bill** could enable this to happen.

In 10 years' time, we could have 50,000 plots and about 100,000 people actively engaged in sustaining the soil, themselves and the local community. To accomplish this only 1,000 hectares of land will be required over the whole of Scotland.

For this to happen we need defined amendments and additions to the **Community Empowerment Bill**:

- **Define a Standard Plot as Normally of 250 sq.m.** Unless it is defined as a reference standard in law, Local Authorities will reduce plot sizes to reduce waiting lists. Though some people may ask for a fraction of this size; this standard size is necessary to be self-sufficient in good food or provide year round activity for the retired, the family and the unwaged.
- **Duty to Provide Suitable Land and Infrastructure.** We don't need much. Land can be leased or agreements made with a variety of land owners public bodies housing associations churches etc. Basic infrastructure can include drainage, fencing, paths etc. and must be provided as required.
- **Retention of FAIR RENT clause.** Rents should be set to enable those on low income to participate and not be excluded.
- **Waiting lists.** Amend sections 71 and 72 of the Bill so that local authorities have a duty to provide land for allotments so that no-one waits more than 3 years for a plot. As the Bill stands, a local authority only has to ensure the waiting list is less than 50% of available plots. Given that there is a turnover of only 5% of plots each year, people could still wait 10 years for a plot. The historic and current lack of appropriate provision of land is the key factor in the length of waiting lists.
- **Preserving Land.** Land that is good for cultivation must be identified and must be conserved as green space in local development plans. Sustainable economic development must not supersede sustainable community development.

www.sags.org.uk

contact secretary@sags.org.uk 0131 665 2055 or 07812430453