

# COMMUNITY GROUPS GROWING VEG: RE-SKILLING AND RECONNECTION THROUGH ALLOTMENTS



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# RECONNECTING: LOCAL FOOD, DEFENSIVE LOCALISM AND ALLOTMENTS

Goodman and DuPuis (2005:364) call for a 'reflexive politics' of local food that pays attention to social justice:

"We have to move away from the idea that food systems become just by virtue of making them local and toward a conversation about how to make local food systems more just."

Goodman & Dupuis (2002:17):

"Food is no longer polarized conceptually as totem or fetish, but emerges as an arena of struggle, as well as a realm of connectivity."



# RESEARCH ON TWO NEW ALLOTMENT SITES IN SOMERSET



SOMERTON ALLOTMENTS:  
CREATED BY COMMUNITY  
ACTION



LYTES CARY: NT &  
COMMUNITY CREATED

# INITIAL FINDINGS: COMMUNITY CREATION ON ALLOTMENTS GROWING BETTER HARVESTS

- **LYTES CARY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (LCAA) FEB '10:**  
40 HALF-PLOTS- 5 COMMUNAL-  
3 PRIMARY SCHOOLS & 1  
SECONDARY
- **NT/COMMITTEE RUN**
- **SOMERTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (SAA) NOV'10:**  
55 HALF-PLOTS 10mX12m
- **COMMITTEE RUN**
- **EXPERIENTIAL RESEARCH  
GROWING AT SOMERTON**



**CHARLTON MACKRELL RED  
CLASS PLANTING SWEETCORN**

# INITIAL FINDINGS: COMMUNITY CREATION ON ALLOTMENTS GROWING BETTER HARVESTS

- EXPERIENTIAL FIELD-NOTES:

"I left the plots on a high at finally getting to the point of planting, it made me feel that we are 'proper' plot-holders and that we can be part of a growing community. Additionally, I was very touched and excited by the community support there..."

- RESEARCH INTERVIEW, BEN:

"I find the community spirit up there very nice...people swap general growing tips: when I notice a crop has done very well, I ask the grower about what variety of seeds they've used and may use it myself."



# ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT/ SUCCESSFUL HARVESTS EXTENDING CHOICE

- Growing rules preserving the rural idyll
- NT- Education work to breaking down barriers of growing knowledge.
- Mutual assistance, community development and knowledge sharing, breaking the barriers to local food.



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