

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Local group *Veg on the Edge* needs your help

Public event Sunday 6 October,
11.00am to 3.00pm, drop in

Newly-formed volunteer group *Veg on the Edge* is holding an information sharing event in Shipley on Sunday 6 October. The group want to transform a piece of derelict land behind Shipley Fire Station into a community food garden for all to enjoy, and are inviting people in the Shipley/Saltaire area to share their views and get involved.

The group, made up of people from neighbouring streets, first got together almost a year ago to discuss what could be done with the eyesore land. They are now constituted as a volunteer organisation and have successfully raised funds through the Community First funding programme to draw up designs for the site and begin the process of transformation. The group is also receiving support and advice from Councillor Kevin Warnes and from the charity Bradford Community Environment Project (BCEP) to help make their vision a reality.

Sarah Read, Chair and co-founder, said 'at first we were just considering a traditional allotment scheme. But we quickly wanted to be more creative and ambitious, and for the project to be more inclusive and sociable. We hope that beyond providing space to grow vegetables in an urban area, members will swap skills and become friends. We also want to be as eco-friendly as possible, so we plan to use green principles including rainwater harvesting and recycled materials'.

Adele Adams, Senior Landscape Architect at BCEP said, 'It's great that there has been such enthusiasm from Veg on the Edge. The group have proposed lots of ideas, including shared growing areas, an edible forest, and even a pizza oven and seating so that members can come together and enjoy the fruits of their labours. I've produced some designs that will hopefully inspire other people to see that the site has fantastic potential'.

The group will be holding an information-sharing event for the public on Sunday 6 October 2013 from 11am to 3pm. Visitors will have a chance to see the initial designs for project, walk around the site, chat to group members and find out how to get involved. Access to the site is via the lane from Saltaire Road between Shipley Fire Station and the Bella Mia Cafe. The site is muddy and overgrown, so boots and outdoor clothing are recommended. Parking is available nearby in Caroline Street and Exhibition Road pay and display car parks. For more information, contact hello@vegontheedge.org

ENDS

Notes for Editors

For further information and images contact hello@vegontheedge.org

Veg on the Edge is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation constituted in January 2013. The group's mission is to work together to cultivate an area of wasteland in Shipley with the following aims:

- To work together to reclaim an area of derelict land next to our homes
- To transform and maintain this site as a communal food growing area, community space and natural habitat for wildlife.
- To develop the gardening and cultivation skills of our members
- To provide opportunities for growing to those who do not have access to space to grow their own food.
- To consider and promote the different opportunities that the site can offer to new and marginalised groups of people to become involved.
- To work with Bradford Metropolitan District Council and any other group or organisation that helps promote the ethos and development aims of the group
- To adhere where possible and practicable, to sustainable green practices including organic principles
- To ensure the community garden is physically accessible and inclusive, as far as is reasonably practicable
- To contribute to the general improvement of the physical environment of Shipley.
- To develop community cohesion within the neighbourhoods of Shipley.
- To be financially self-sustaining.
- To work with the local authority in taking action to protect members and the garden against damage, trespass and theft and to secure the site from vandals, dog fouling and other anti social activities.

The name Veg on the Edge refers both to the edgeland nature of the site, and its location on the edge of the World Heritage Site, on the borders between Shipley and Saltaire.

www.vegontheedge.org

BCEP BCEP is Bradford's largest environmental charity. It has been operational since 1996 and, since that time, has delivered many programmes for the benefit of the people of Bradford District. Local food production related programmes have always featured in BCEP's work, and have included Gardening for Health, Sho Nirbhur, Sustainable Futures, Plant Cultures and Health through Food. BCEP is a locally run charity, and has an ethos that aims to leave a lasting legacy by building skills, partnerships and locally controlled resources that contribute towards the sustainable regeneration of Bradford District.

www.bcep.org.uk