

Membership Survey 2026

A survey of the membership of Knocknagael Ltd was undertaken in the first half of 2026. The purpose was to understand our members' aspirations, skills and enthusiasms, and, in particular, to understand what interest there is amongst the membership in obtaining an allotment and in taking part in community growing activities.

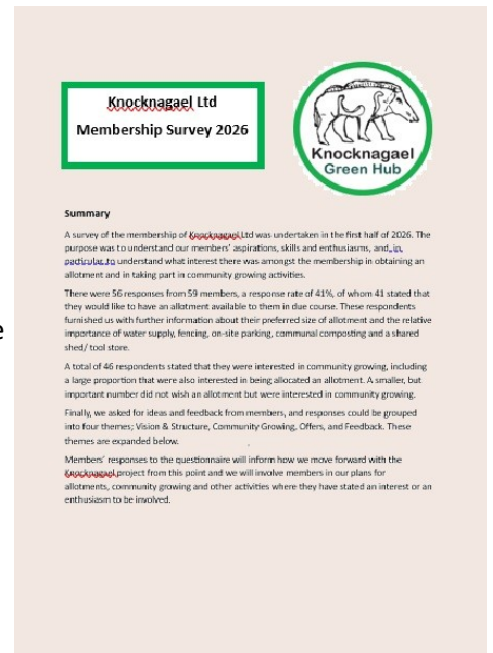
The report has been uploaded to our website and can be accessed [here](#).

There were 56 responses from 59 members (the membership of Knocknagael at the time of the survey was 143), a response rate of 41%, of whom 41 stated that they would like to have an allotment available to them in due course. These respondents furnished us with further information about their preferred size of allotment and the relative importance of water supply, fencing, on-site parking, communal composting and a shared shed/ tool store.

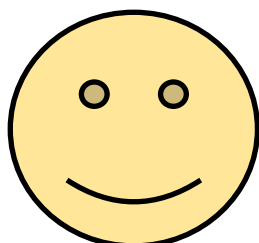
A total of 46 respondents stated that they were interested in community growing, including a large proportion that were also interested in being allocated an allotment. A smaller, but important number did not wish an allotment but were interested in community growing.

Finally, we asked for ideas and feedback from members, and responses could be grouped into four themes; Vision & Structure, Community Growing, Offers, and Feedback. These themes are expanded on the following pages.

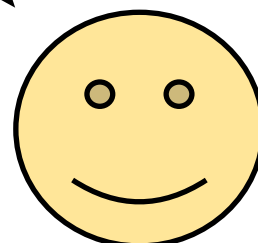
Members' responses to the questionnaire will inform how we move forward with the Knocknagael project from this point and we will involve members in our plans for allotments, community growing and other activities where they have stated an interest or an enthusiasm to be involved.



'I think having a community cook-up each month with locally grown produce would be a fantastic idea! I'd happily get on a weekly pot of heathy veg stew/soups and meals for all to enjoy.'



'I'm really excited about the potential for the Smiddy Field to be a site of growing food, friends, creativity and knowledge, and bringing people together. I wonder if there's potential for building a structure that can host workshops, talks, theatre (?!), artwork etc. An annual programme of creative events that explore local food, land, growing and its folk connections both past and present would be amazing to run alongside allotments and workshops.'



Membership Survey 2026: Your Ideas and Feedback

Vision & Structure

We were extremely grateful for the ideas and suggestions that members offered through the survey. Some were general and others were very specific and directly related to the plans that have been approved by the Highland Council. The ideas that were forthcoming revealed a pleasing engagement in the Knocknagael project, and an impressive ambition for what might be possible.

'Have seen the initial plans. Some thoughts are: Ensure vehicle and trailer access (turning, dumping large amounts) for communal compost areas, avoid hedges and trees near allotments due to root ingress, Espalier fruit trees require maintenance, who would this be? Improve sightline between picnic tables & play mounds'

Offers

Responses to the survey revealed a widespread desire from members to be involved in voluntary activities, bringing both expertise where it exists, but more often straightforward enthusiasm. If physical ailments limited respondents' ability to be involved in physical work, they identified other tasks that they could contribute to.

Where respondents identified skills and experience that they could bring to the organisation, or opportunities for partnership working, these will be followed up individually.

'I have enjoyed meeting and working with other volunteers at recent events and would be happy to participate in more'

Community Growing

Many of the ideas and feedback related to a perceived benefit of community growing and community-based activity at the Smiddy Field. There were specific suggestions about a communal polytunnel, communal composting bins, a communal shed and a communal chicken coop! Sadly, the last of these is not possible as our purchase agreement for the Smiddy Field forbids us from having any livestock!

Very helpful ideas also came from partner organisations in the Third Sector outlining the perceived benefits of community growing for the young people that they work with.

'We're very keen to become involved in the community allotment and would like the opportunity to secure a plot that can be used as a safe & supportive space for the young people we work with, many of whom are experiencing crisis situations or facing significant challenges in their lives. We believe the allotment would have a lasting and positive impact on the young people we support, providing opportunities for personal growth, improved wellbeing, practical education, & stronger community connections.'

Feedback

We were very grateful for the positive feedback that was evident from the survey, and relieved at the lack of any criticism or negative feedback, although one warning was very apposite; **'keep up momentum before people get fed up waiting'**. A sentiment that we wholeheartedly agree with!

'Thanks for all the effort so far! Look forward to hearing about next steps and getting involved'

The Word Cloud

A Word Cloud has been created from the text data that came from the ideas/ feedback responses and the result is presented overleaf.

The 2006 Membership Survey's Word Cloud

For those that are not familiar with Word Clouds, the bigger and bolder a word appears in the diagram, the more often it appeared in the data (in this case, your feedback and ideas). It is reassuring that the most prominent words are ***'people', 'community', 'allotment'*** and ***'communal'***.

