



Gardening scheme survey - Yarl's Wood IRC, March 2016

- **39 women were asked for their opinion on the proposed gardening scheme, this equates to over 10 % of the population.** Surveys were conducted with women attending a stakeholder event and by two of the women detainees. Further surveys were left in the post room for women to complete.
- **19 (49%) respondents had gardened in the past**, either in the UK or in their country or origin. It was clear that for many women this brought back fond memories.
- **17 (44%) respondents said that they visited the gardens at Yarl's Wood**, some visited every day, but most were only occasional visitors. Only 4 women visited the gardens weekly or daily. This figure would be expected to be higher in summer months.
- Women were asked what would make them visit the gardens more, the responses were as follows:

Nice and lovely	If there will be swings in the garden I would really like to visit it more	Birds, rabbits, flowers
Beautiful flowers	Nice environment	Greenery and fresh air
Nice environment	Nicer mood, if there was something nice to look at it would make be happier as possible	If you would let me
Flowers	Nicer garden	I love flowers
I don't know	Good flowers, scented flowers, good benches, magazines to take to relax in the garden	More flowers, more attractive
Decorated	Flowers	More beautiful, more flowers
Nicer garden	Nice garden	Nice looking
Beautiful flowers	Art	More interesting, seeing birds
Nice things to look at	Lovely flowers	Flowers
Nicer things	If different types of plant are there, then would be able to see variety. That would make me visit more	Flowers
Something that would help my issues	Wet weather access	Flowers
Nice things to look at	They are ok	

- **31 respondents (79%) said they would be interested in attending a weekly gardening sessions to develop the Yarl's Wood gardens.** For those that chose to comment, responses are shown below:

It would be nice to have something constructive to do	Something to do	Every day fresh air
Creative thing to do	Because I love nature	I am interested in looking after the garden and growing veggies
Make the garden beautiful	Not interested	I love gardening and in prison I was working in a garden
Something better to do	I think so	I love looking after plants
It would be a great way of therapy	I would like to take knowledge about it	Being outside, fresh air
Good way to pass the time	Flowers and colour	Depends on weather
That would definitely be great	Already busy - greeting new arrivals	Sounds like a nice project
This place is boring and can make me feel lonely and suicidal. Doing this will be a great idea.	Social	Just want to go home at the moment, but quite interested.

- Women were asked to choose what they would most like to do, they were asked to choose up to 3 options but some chose more:

Activity	Responses
Growing vegetables	25 (64%)
Growing Fruit	27 (69%)
Growing flowers	29 (74%)
Growing indoor plants	19 (49%)
Using plants for craft activities such as flower arranging	13 (33%)

- **Next women were asked if they would like to have a plot of their own to tend though out the week. 26 (66%) respondents said Yes.**

- Finally women were asked about the educational aspect of the project:

	Positive responses
Interested in learning about the growth and care of plants	24 (62%)
Receiving a qualification	30 (77%)*
Interested in learning small business skills based on the growth and sale of plants and processing or using plant products.	31 (79%)

* There was a problem with this question and women answered it despite indicating that they did not want to learn about the growth and care of plants

- The following additional comments were also made:

It's nice to do something productive, this project will help	If I work in garden do I get paid? When is it gonna start? Would be better cos in this place you don't get out	Would love to see more nature, currently looks very dead
It would be nice	Looking forward to hearing from you	I would like to learn a skill that I can continue when I am released
I cannot wait	Something to keep ladies occupied, valuable skills	
How to grow more beautiful flowers and plants	It would help create a home	