



EDICITNET GLOBAL LUNCH TALKS :
URBAN FOOD INNOVATION

“Food Connects Us”: How to Join Forces with City Authorities for More Social, Edible Cities

With the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

17th May 2022 | 12.00-13.00 CET

www.edicitnet.com



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 776665



With **Vic Borrill** (Director at Brighton & Hove Food Partnership)
Ruth Smart (EdiCitNet Project Officer at Brighton & Hove Food Partnership)
and **Angela Blair** (Food Policy Coordinator at Brighton and Hove City Council)



Edible Cities Network

edible City Solutions
for smart, resilient & sustainably productive Cities

EdiCitNet in a Nutshell

Dr. Ina Säumel
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

“Food connects us!” How to Join Forces with City Authorities for More Social, Edible Cities -
EdiCitNet Global Lunch Talk

17.05.2022



This Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 777665.

Mission & Co-Creation Strategy

Edible City Solutions (ECS) overcome mismatch between NBS and citizens by deepening the social dimension of NBS.

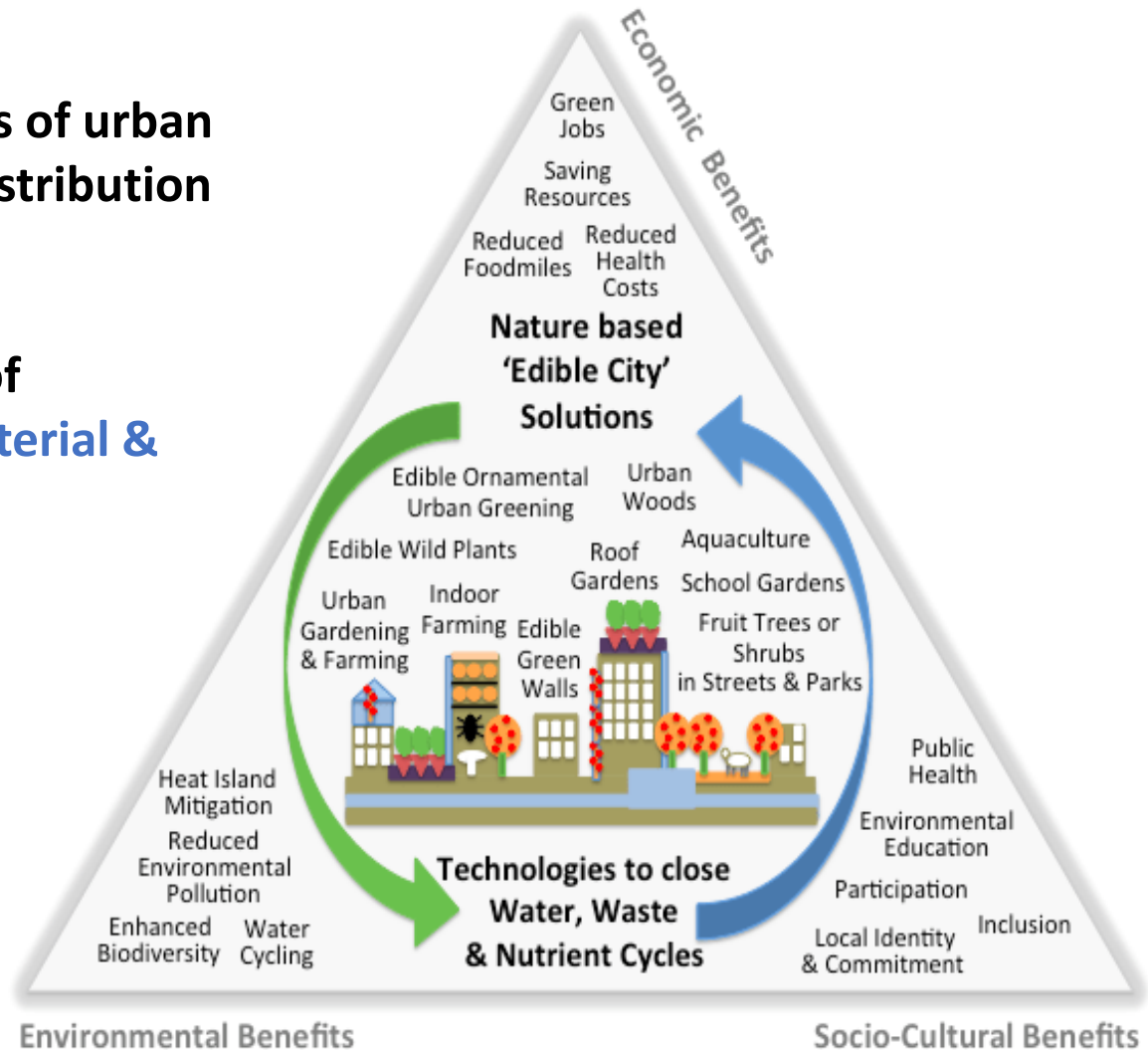
- **Mainstream successful co-creation practice from ECS that are **socially inclusive, invite citizens****
- **to co-create** the sustainable development of their society
- to proactively change the urban environment to their benefit &
- to induce a **paradigm shift of lifestyle.**



What are Edible City Solutions? (ECS)

- wide range of **different forms of urban farming, food production, distribution and consumption**
- Using **innovative principles of ecological design, closed material & energy flows.**

Säumel et al. 2019 **Edible City Solutions**
Sustainability 11(4), 972.

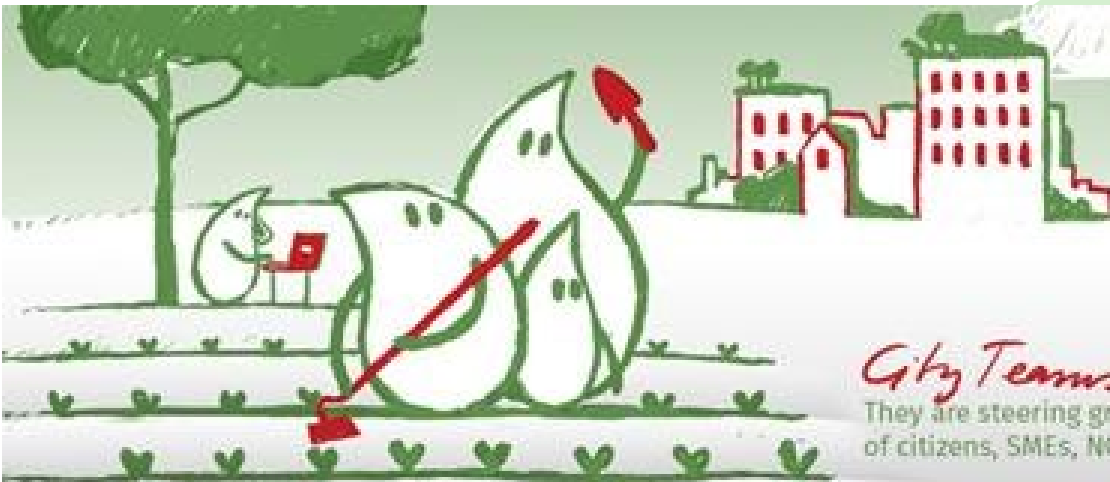


Local & Regional Networks: Communities of knowledge & practice

- **13 open and participatory City Teams** with actors of all levels (e.g. city administrators, planners, members of local NGOs and businesses, citizens).
- a **collective learning process** leads to a comprehensive and co-developed knowledge base, with contributions from theoretical and practical contexts: **we all are experts!**



Rotterdam (NL), Oslo (NO),
Havana (CU), Andernach &
Berlin (DE), Montevideo (UY),
Sant de Feliu de Llobregat
(ES), Letchworth (UK),
Carthage (TN), Sempeter pri
Gorici (SI), Lomé (TG);
Guangzhou (CN)



City Teams are the backbone of the project.
They are steering groups in each city which ensure participation
of citizens, SMEs, NGOs, and other relevant organisations.

Who are we?

- A not-for-profit organisation working across all areas of the food system within Brighton & Hove
The UK's first food partnership, and one of the UK's first food strategies
- The work that we do can be complex and varied, but our vision is simple: to provide **healthy** and **sustainable** food for **everyone** in Brighton & Hove



Approach

- We work closely with the council, but operate as an **independent** food partnership
- We embrace the **complexity** of food, and put it at the centre of what we do
- We use **food as a tool** to transform our food system and our city
- We develop **ambitious food strategies** that encourage cross-city collaboration



- We work at both a strategic **policy level and at a grassroots level** – running a range of projects across the city
- Our approach is **place based**

Brighton & Hove: One city, two stories

The image of Brighton & Hove often focuses on what visitors see in the centre, but our city is more diverse and complex.

Eating out



- Believed to have the most restaurants and cafes per head in the UK¹
- Caterers serve 1 million meals a year²

11 million
visitors a year³

Third Sector



- Strong community and voluntary sector
- Strong environmental movement
- **Over half (51%)** of adults volunteer at least once a year = **4.5 million hours per year**
- Non-profit groups contribute **£170 million** to the local economy⁴

Population

290,000 and rising



- 21% aged 19-28 (Southeast average, 12%)
- 20% born outside the UK (Southeast average, 12%)⁵
- Population will be 6% higher by 2030

Diversity



11-15%
of population identify as LGBT+⁶

Universities

- 2 universities = large student population



¹ <https://restaurants.brighton.co.uk/food-in-brighton-hove-restaurants> ² Estimate by SHPP from Good Food Procurement Group surveys
³ <https://www.brightonandhove.gov.uk/2022/02/22/brighton-and-hove-food-partnership-gold-status-2020/>

Brighton & Hove: One city, two stories

Food insecurity

- **1 in 5** people say they do not have enough money to meet their basic living costs, including food
- Rising to **1 in 3** if **young, disabled or BAME**¹
- Neighbourhoods in both the **1% most deprived** and **1% least deprived** in England²



Footprint

- 26% of the city's ecological footprint (land and resources) relates to food³



Ageing

- **41%** of older people **live alone** (national average is 31%)⁴
- Life expectancy **11 years lower for men and 7.2 years lower for women** in the most deprived ward compared to the least
- Healthy Life expectancy – **14 years lower for men and 12.5 years lower for women** in the most deprived ward compared to the least⁵



Food bank use

- Even pre-Covid-19, **21 emergency food providers** gave out approx **420 food parcels per week = 21,000 per year**
- Most food banks report **increasing demand** and concerns about long-term use⁶



Health

- Treating diet-related diseases costs the NHS in Brighton & Hove over **£80 million** a year⁷
- Children in most deprived areas **10 times more likely** to be obese at Year 6 than in least deprived areas⁸
- More than **1 in 10** adults on the depression register⁹



Housing

- One of the lowest levels of housing affordability of all UK cities, with the average house price nearly **11 times the average salary**¹⁰
- Smallest household size in the South East
- **More than a third** of households comprise one person only¹¹



¹ Pre Covid-19 figures, 2018 Brighton & Hove City Tracker Survey 21% residents disagreed (including 8% who strongly disagreed) they will be able to meet basic living costs after paying for housing. The JSNA on Food Poverty, Diet and Health (2019) shows this figure has remained around 1/5 since 2014

² English Indices of Deprivation, 2019 ³ A One Planet Framework for Brighton & Hove (2011) ⁴ Ageing well Brighton & Hove JSNA 2015, (2011 census, quoted 2020 JSNA Executive Summary) ⁵ (2009-15) – ONS, Inequality in Healthy Life expectancy at Birth LA Male/Female

⁶ Pre Covid-19 figures, Brighton & Hove Food Banks and Emergency Food Network Survey Report 2019

⁷ £85.5million Brighton & Hove JSNA 2015 ⁸ National Child Measurement Programme data 2016/19, NHS digital

⁹ Public Health Profiles, 2016/19

¹⁰ Brighton & Hove Economic Strategy: Evidence Base Summary & Final Report by Regenria Consulting (2018)

¹¹ 2011 census briefing - (44,194 households, 36.4%) are one person households <https://www.bhconnected.org.uk/sites/bhconnected/files/2012/2012Census%20Briefing%20-%20City%20Profile.pdf>





Brighton & Hove
GOLD

Brighton & Hove

FOOD
Partnership



[https://www.menti.com/
bggywgjbqg](https://www.menti.com/bggywgjbqg)



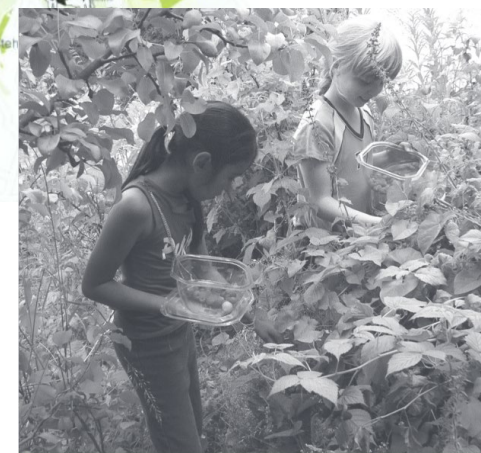
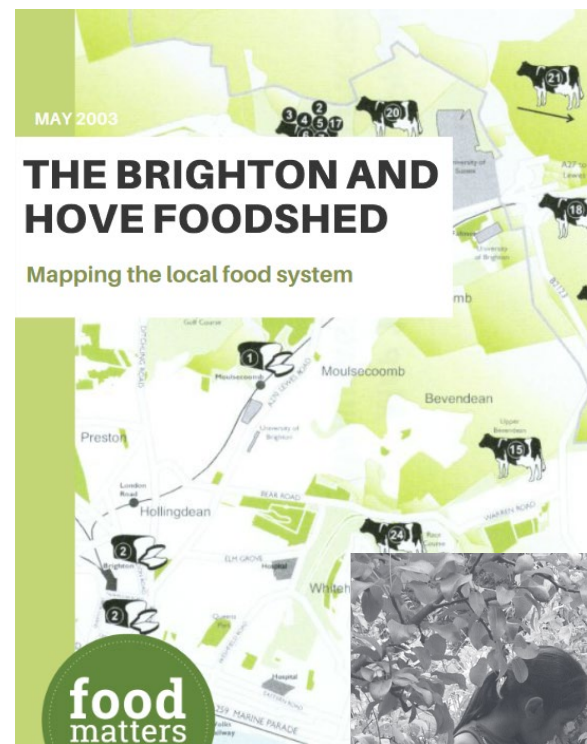
Working together at the start

Mapping what and who was
involved in food

Action in the first food
strategy – **set up an
independent food partnership**
to champion and co-ordinate
the work

Aim to get everyone to think
about food together, instead of
bracketing it off in health +
environment departments.

A few key Council champions
(officer and official) led the work



SPADE TO SPOON:
Making the Connections

*A Food Strategy and Action Plan
for Brighton and Hove
Summer 2006*



Building momentum

Taking food to **everyones workplan**

How can we help you achieve what you need to?

BHFP organisation that brings different organisations together as a critical mass.

Communicate / celebrate – be the thing that people want to join

Generous leadership

Make it visible – gardens, meals, city events, newsletters and social

National recognition - awards

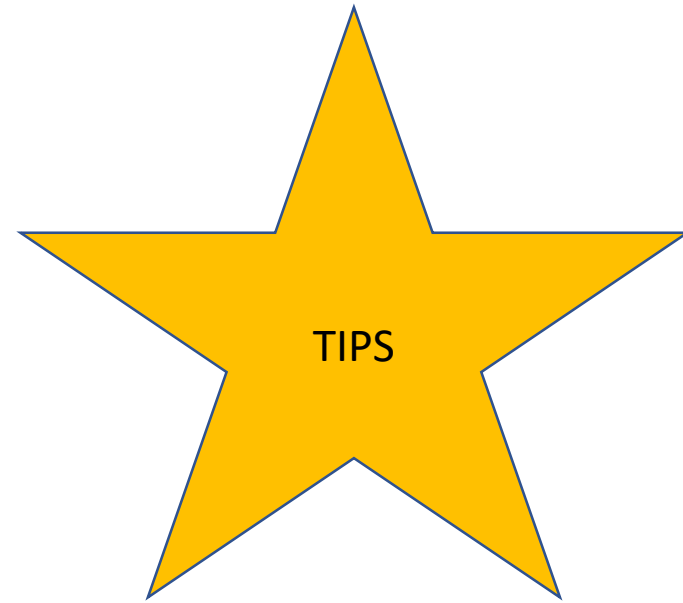


Embedding the approach

- People now say 'what about food'
- Food used to approach other issues - It's an entry point for understanding systemic issues.
- Prioritising key areas - food poverty 'goggles' and climate action
- Food Policy Officer within the Local Authority



- ✓ It is okay to be at the beginning – this kind of work is continuous beginnings.
- ✓ Find your heroes – politicians and officers – some people will 'get it' – nurture them
- ✓ Keep talking and talking and talking about why it is important
- ✓ Put effort in – respond to consultations – say what like don't just criticise
- ✓ Share positive stories – invite people to visit, go to their events
- ✓ Find unusual allies
- ✓ Help them solve their pain
- ✓ Critical friend role
- ✓ Find the hooks - Get even just one sentence in different strategies / action plans about food!
- ✓ Patience and persistence – think Jenga - right block right time!



Advantages

- Food work can flow and grow between organisations
- The work and approach of the partnership makes sense
- Councils are learning be on tap
- Community organisations **do things**
- BHCC is a major landlord and landowner across the city
- Councils scrutinised for agreed/approved food actions
- Having an external organisation that doesn't have to think with anything else apart from food



Challenges

- Constantly having to fit everything into ‘gov-speak’
- Mushrooming! The food work can grow anywhere
- Thinking in both decades and days at the same time
- General disappointment/anger with big government
- Understanding sensitivities but being gently persistent



Spaces of hope

What your plans for the future of the city's food system?

- A few big and many small decisions

Where do you see this going?

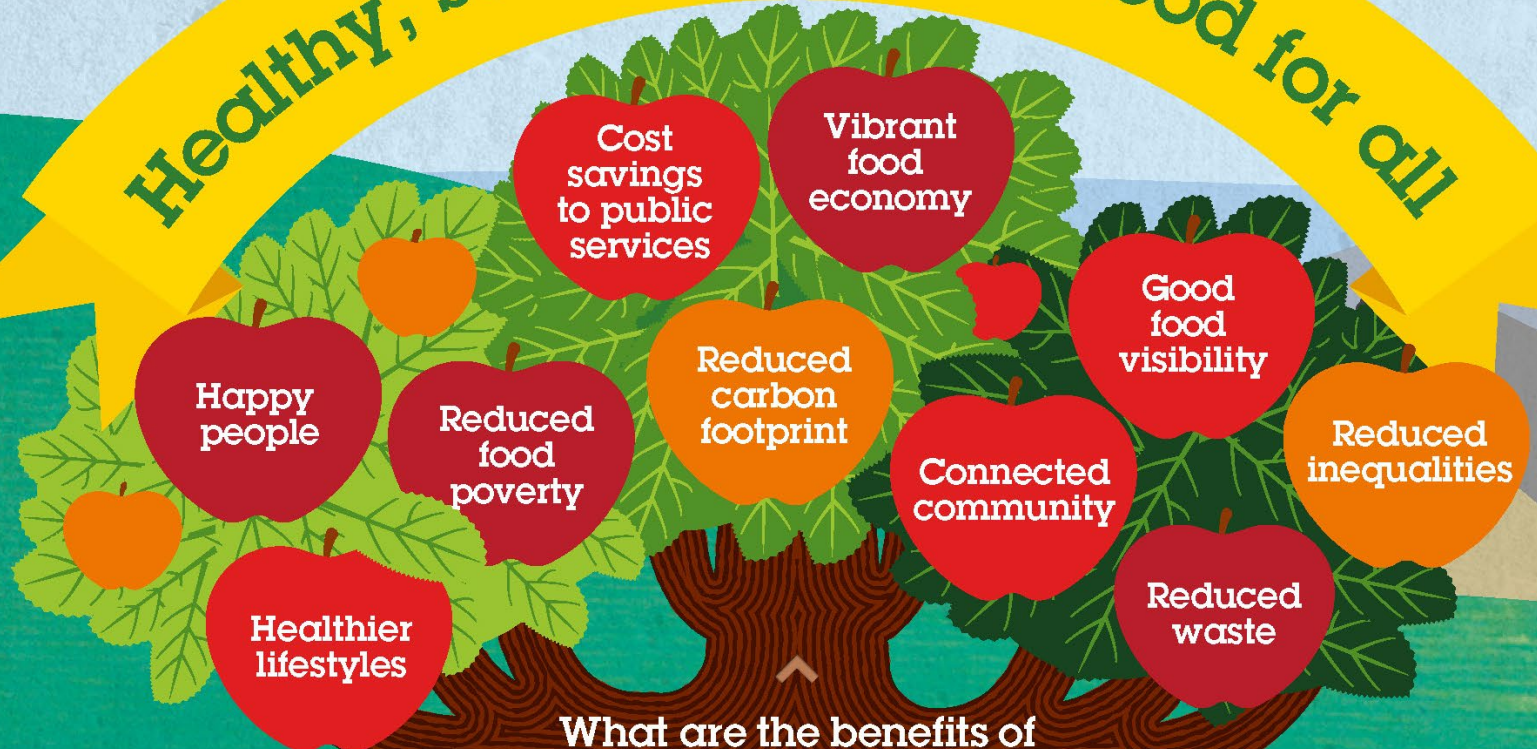
- Tipping point

What would you like to have happen next?

- Food news



Healthy, sustainable, fair food for all



What are the benefits of having a food strategy?

Having a food strategy brings huge wins to Brighton and Hove

Improving people's health, the environment and the local economy

Be out, loud and proud about what you are doing. It is more radical and important than you think.

Prof. Corrina Hawkes from City, University of London talking about the role of Food Partnerships in tackling food system wide issues and contradictions

I'd say the same to everyone involved in Edible City Solutions

Questions?



Coming up...

Want to make your city greener, healthier + more sustainable?

Come talk to city representatives at the Edible Cities Networking Session!



**ONLINE
May 25th
13.00-14.00 CEST**



**Anneli Karlsson
(Andernach, Germany)**



**Hilde Herrebroden
(Oslo, Norway)**



**Tina Hilbert
(Berlin, Germany)**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 776665



Edible Cities Network

Coming up...



EDICITNET MARKETPLACE PRESENTS:

The Diamond Model: Analysing & Strategising for Strong, Stable & Thriving Urban Food Initiatives (with Alice Bischof

from Wageningen University)

Wednesday, May 25th 15.00-16.00 (CEST)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 776665



Coming up...



[Edible Cities Network](#) ▾ [Events](#) ▾ [News](#) [Resources](#) ▾ [Media](#) ▾ [About](#) ▾  ▾

Edible City Solutions for a better world!



EdiCitNet Global Lunch Talk #2: Making Cities Edible With Building-Integrated Agriculture

9th March 2022

Building-integrated urban agriculture – like rooftop farms and edible green facades – offer cities a range of ecological, socio-cultural as well as economic benefits. But what needs to be done to get the city on board? In this 2nd webinar the EdiCitNet project will be exploring legislative and political barriers, but also chances and opportunities. Looking at Germany – and internationally – what can cities and individuals do to support the spread of building-integrated agriculture?



www.edicitnet.com/webinars

