

**THE NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST  
PARK FARM  
FRITTENEDEN ROAD  
BIDDENDEN  
ASHFORD  
KENT TN27 8LG**

**Registered No. 256025**

**Tel: 01580 291531**

**Questionnaire**

**Tell us about yourselves**

World Education Berkshire (also known as RISC), a registered charity in Reading, runs a project whose main aims are to enable local communities to manage land in their own neighbourhoods for the sustainable growing of food for their own consumption, encourage healthier eating and lifestyle habits and develop understanding of the broader environmental, cultural and economic aspects of sustainable food production.

This network of gardens which builds skills and understanding in food production, provides social and horticultural therapy allows residents, parents and children to learn how to grow their own food together. A total of 7 community gardens have been established with over 650 people involved. It is part of Reading's **Food4families** programme, which received funding since 2009 to develop community based food-growing projects including Educational work with schools, Community Gardens, Vegetable Patches and Cookery Classes.

**Tell us about the Funds**

· Has the project we helped to fund been completed? If so, how is it maintained?

The £3000 from the Ninevah Trust has been used to pay for garden tutors as well as some resources needed to run supported gardening sessions for the local community at 2 of Food4families community allotments Whitley GrowAllot and Southcote GrowAllot during the growing season of 2018.

· If not completed yet, why not? Are plans in place to finalise the project?

· Did the funds provided by us prove adequate, or was there an over- or under-spend?

The money provided by the Ninevah Trust covered half the costs for running the sessions and we were able to make up the deficit with funding from 2 other local funding foundations.

· How were any surplus funds used, or was further funding made available?

**Tell us about the project**

· Has the project been successful and well received by the beneficiaries?

The community allotments have had a successful year, though the extremes of weather they experienced – a very cold spring and hot dry summer- provided some challenges and surprising results. We had an amazing harvest of grapes and pumpkins, which were enjoyed by all the participants and everyone stepped up and helped with the watering rotas.

The University of Reading and Whitley Community researchers helped us carry out a through evaluation at the end for the growing season and here are some of the highlights:-

- People appreciated having access to attractive green spaces where they can make contact with nature within the heart of their communities.
- The gardens are child friendly and bring people of all backgrounds together where they can form relationships with their neighbours.
- Participants growing skills increased and they felt they ate more healthily with access to fresh fruit and vegetables on their doorstep.
- Generally those who got involved reported that coming along made a difference to their physical and mental wellbeing. They felt better being out in the fresh air.

Some quotes from participants:-

“It has shown me the importance of involving my son in preparing food and learning how it grows as he is always so excited to eat food that has come from the allotment”

“Having the session as part of my week definitely makes me happier and more content”

“It gives me much needed headspace even though the children are here we all seem to find some space and feel at ease.”

“It gives me happy points in my memory so they are there to help me through the bad times.”

“It helps me feel closer to nature and as someone who has suffered with depression involving myself in nature is a great help.”

“I like growing things if I get vegetables at the end and I get to meet with friends and chat to people for me that’s the added bonus.”

· [Are you satisfied with the outcome, or, with hindsight, would some modifications have been appropriate?](#)

We still need to work harder to engage more residents who would benefit from the sessions especially men and members of the black and minority communities. The garden links with their communities could be stronger and we need to actively encourage more residents involvement in running of the gardens. The gardens are a precious but often due to their location largely hidden resource which could be made more accessible to the local community so we are reviewing how we could do that.

· [Was funding for this project made available from any other sources?](#)

The Englefield Charitable Trust £200, The Cumber Family Trust £500 and Gerald Palmer Eling Trust Company £500

### **Feedback about us**

· [How did you find our own process of selection and payment?](#)

It was very straight forward, with the website supplying some very clear guidelines. The process was timely and communication clear.

· [Have you considered providing us with an update on the activities for which our Trust provided the funding?](#)

We could have easily provided you with an update sooner as well as photos – sorry the growing season is very busy.

· [Would you welcome a visit by our Trustees?](#)

Yes, any Trustees would be very welcome to visit especially when the gardens open again for the next growing season in March.

· [Have you any other comments?](#)

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