

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and organic feel. The shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Neighbourhood Food Gardens

Encouraging a vibrant local and sustainable food system

Why do this?

- ▶ The Shire recognises the need to encourage more community members to eat a fresh, local and affordable diet
- ▶ There is a desire within our community to teach people how to grow their own food
- ▶ Likely to improve social connectedness by bringing neighbours and community together
- ▶ The Shire has a strong focus on connecting local people to local food
- ▶ and food Security is an important issue

Barriers to this project

- ▶ The Shire has not formally thrown its support behind neighbourhood food gardens in the past
- ▶ Anecdotally, we think people will be interested in the project
- ▶ There is always the usual concerns around vandalism and loss of public space, etc

What does the Shire have to think about?

- ▶ Need to gauge interest and support
- ▶ Check what people's expectations are, setting boundaries
- ▶ Limited budget - pilot project (maybe four sites to start with)
- ▶ Getting everyone on board (avoid neighbourhood conflict)
- ▶ Risk issues - hazards/ Registering as a Shire volunteer
- ▶ Some rules and regs - asking people to sign an agreement

Community self determination

- ▶ Recognising neighbours need to drive this project
- ▶ Providing technical expertise where appropriate
- ▶ Sustainability of the project
- ▶ The need for community champions
- ▶ Providing resources and sharing local knowledge (community garden workshops)
- ▶ Linking with school gardens

Relevant policies and strategies

- ▶ The Mornington Peninsula Shire Community Garden Policy and Information kit
- ▶ MPS Private works and nature strips and reserves policy
- ▶ Monash University MPS Healthy Food Basket
- ▶ MPS Food Security Background Paper

Potential Outcome

- ▶ Local neighbours embrace the concepts
- ▶ Establish small food production in 'pocket parks'
- ▶ Learn new skills and acquire new knowledge (understanding seasonality)
- ▶ More active outside
- ▶ Get to know their neighbours
- ▶ Increased intake of fresh fruit and vegetables
- ▶ Save Money