



# Belhaven Community Garden

Working Group update April 29 2013

## **Belhaven Hospital Community Garden is growing!**

**Poly Tunnel** (see **1** on map) has been purchased and erected by The Ridge.

Working parties will continue **every Sunday** 1-4pm through the summer months and The Ridge will also be working through the week days. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome for both the Sunday work sessions from 1-4pm and the mid week sessions. Please contact [katedarrah@gmail.com](mailto:katedarrah@gmail.com) about how to get involved.

## **Community Involvement**

Sue will be getting a blackboard (**2**) up near the poly tunnel so people can see what tasks need doing etc through the season. Sue will continue to get the word out via websites, face book pages, posters and press.

Rob is producing a flyer about community garden which will be hand delivered through the Tree Scheme to let people know what is going on and how they can get involved.

Janet M will be looking to involve volunteers from the Grammar school and Kate will contact West Barns Primary School.

Sue will find out the date of the Belhaven Fete so we can aim to have a celebration of the Community Garden at the same time.

Colin has established contact with the Community Garden Co-ordinator at Amisfield Walled Garden, Haddington, and we will keep in touch as needed.

## **Sensory Garden:**

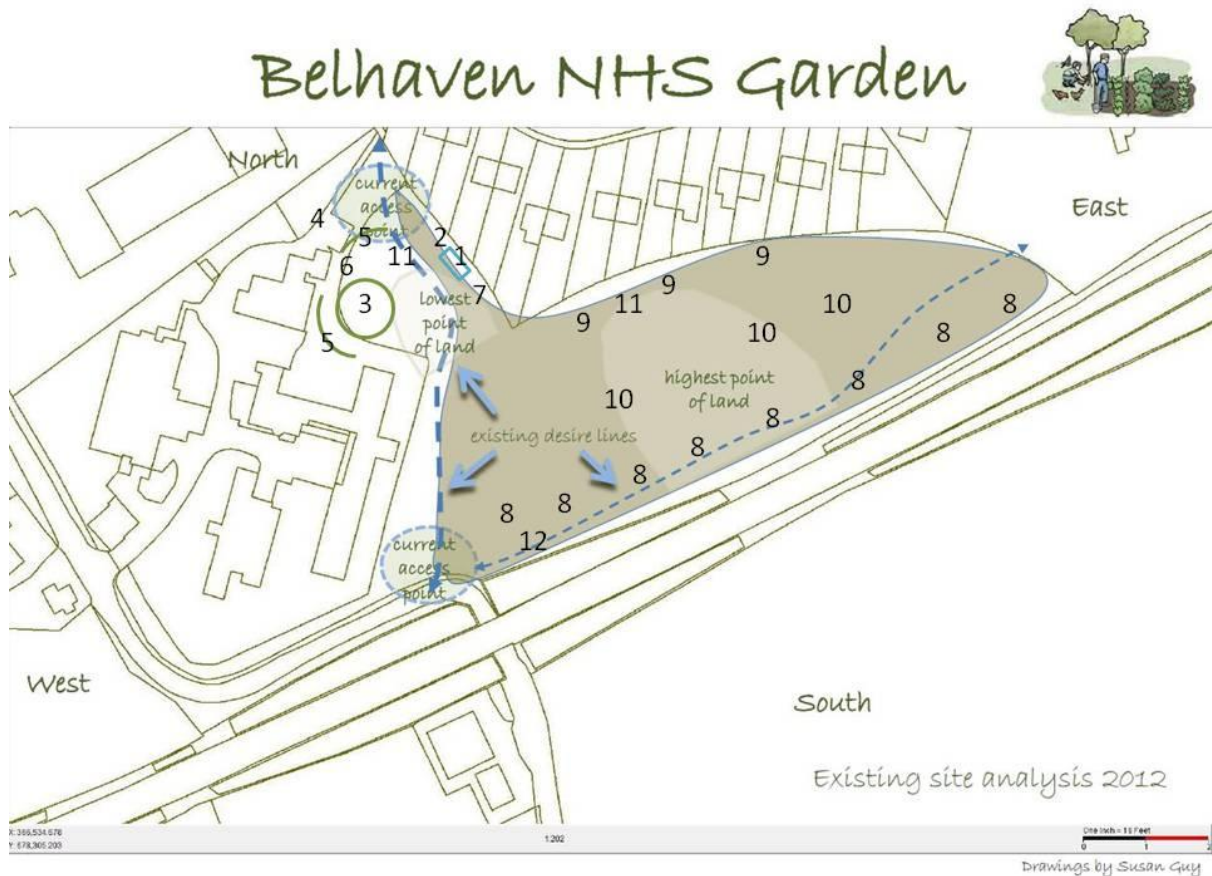
Working parties continue to develop the Sensory Garden (**3**) and it has been decided not to plant through membrane – rather work the existing soil and add compost and wood chip as mulch.

The compost still needs to be shifted from the parking area (**4**) to the Sensory Garden urgently as this is using up precious parking spaces for the Hospital. The Ridge will look into getting this shifted this week.

The outer ring will be developed and planted first and then the inner ring needs turf lifted.

Kate and Colin will set dates for planting.

The Ridge will take the lead on planting and acquire more plants and bill Sustaining Dunbar.



A low 2-3' woven shelter wrapped around the outer edge of the Sensory Garden (3) is envisaged. The top of which could be undulating like waves and higher at the sitting areas to provide more shelter. This won't be a living willow structure because there are concerns that the willow will compete for nutrients and water. However living willow structures (5) are envisaged for areas further away from the sensory garden to provide shelter as well as visual interest and structure for movement through the Community Garden. Willow Artist Barbara long has been contacted to seek her interest in doing this work.

Simple yet beautiful art works are envisaged in the Sensory Garden and Colin has put the word out through East Lothian Arts and Susie Goodwin.

Colin is looking into ways to introduce sound into the garden with water, birds, etc.

Janet is looking into resources for running workshops for people to make things like benches, mosaics, stone circle etc.

### **Planting Soil New Deposited (6)**

Kate and Colin have suggested that we plant the mounds of soil (which have been recently deposited after NHS grounds work) with Jacquemonti Birch and bulbs. These new mounds make for a nice boundary and entrance way into the Garden at that spot (6)

### **Raised Beds (7)**

Colin is contacting the scaffolding people to get wood for 12 beds – needing 72 boards.

The Ridge will take the lead to build the raised beds and invoice Sustaining Dunbar for materials and labour required.

### **Other Boundary Plantings (8)**

The Ridge suggested that willow, hazel and dogwood would be nice planted here.

### **Orchard (9)**

The trees have wintered well and Rob has replanted some of the trees which were in too low. Sue has mapped the location of the 36 different fruit trees. More trees are needed to expand the orchard.

### **Wildflower Meadow (10)**

The Ridge has received wildflower kits and special planting events will be arranged to test soil and get seeds planted. The Ridge to set dates for this.

### **Water (11)**

We need to see if we can get a water supply to the Poly Tunnel as well as further up into the orchard. Sue to email Craig Lees about how to move forward with is as soon as possible.

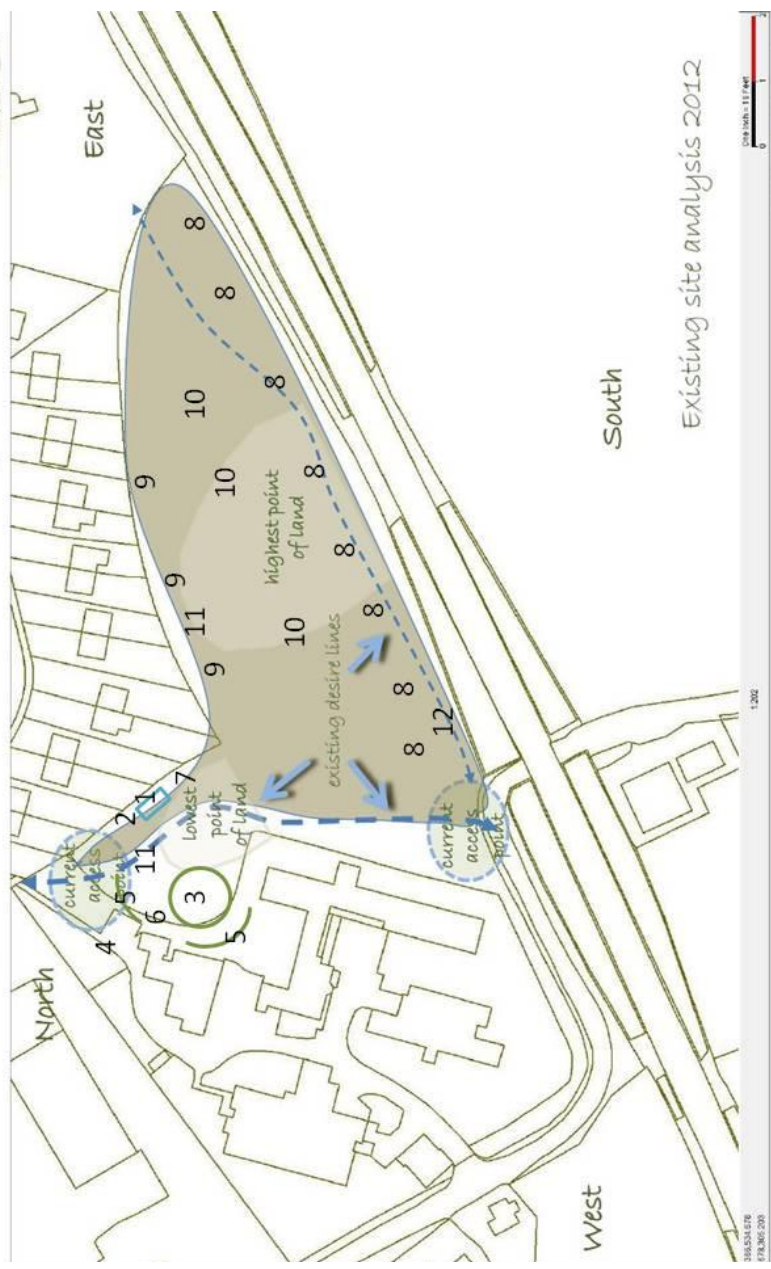
### **Storage (12)**

Rob is looking into a 20' storage container to keep tools safely. The Ridge will purchase and have it installed and invoice Sustaining Dunbar. Sue will email Craig Lees to see if proposed location is ok.

### **Wheelchair accessible paths**

One of the main objectives of the Belhaven Community Garden is to enable staff, patients and their families to easily utilise it as a place for recuperation, health and wellbeing. At the moment the grounds are not at all accessible by wheelchair and we need to raise funds to implement visually pleasing wheelchair accessible paths. The Ridge will look for funding and consult Sandra Glass about required specifications for all abilities. Janet will contact Lafarge for funding/ materials.

# Belhaven NHTS Garden



- 1 Poly Tunnel
- 2 Notice board
- 3 Sensory Garden
- 4 Compost to be shifted
- 5 Living willow structures
- 6 Planting Soil New Deposited
- 7 Raised Beds
- 8 Other Boundary Plantings
- 9 Orchards
- 10 Wildflower Meadows
- 11 Water
- 12 Storage