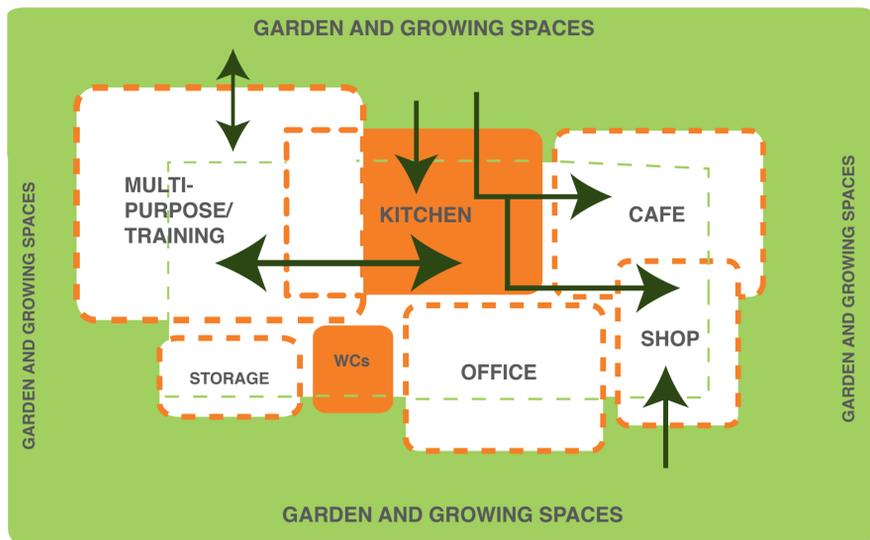


Toxteth Food Central

The Project

Toxteth Food Central will be a vibrant community food hub, which has good food for all at its heart. Based in Toxteth, central Liverpool, the hub will deliver 4 key activity areas to support food learning and culture, founded in an ethos of community cohesion and positive social impact:

- A community shop selling sustainable, affordable produce
- A community-run cafe producing seasonal, multicultural food
- Community and professional training services including creative nutrition, urban agriculture and bee-keeping
- A community-use kitchen including a 'food lab' for local food business start-ups



- ◻ FLEXIBLE SPACES - OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, ADAPTATION AND CROSS-PROGRAMMING
- CORE/ HIGHLY SERVICED SPACES
- GROWING SPACES (INTEGRATED WITH BUILDINGS)
- ↔ FOOD ROUTES

PROJECT BRIEF DIAGRAM

The Brief

- The building will be open, accessible and welcoming to all
- There will be a close relationship between 'inside' and 'outside' spaces, maximising the opportunities for growing and for building users to engage with growing activities and outdoor activities
- All spaces will be multi-use where possible. The roof will not just keep off the rain, but may also be a site for bee-keeping, energy collection (from solar panels) and rainwater collection
- Construction materials will have low environmental impact and buildings will be designed to have very low energy use



About Squash Nutrition...

Squash Nutrition are a Toxteth-based social enterprise, working within communities to share skills and promote food health and well-being. We believe that everyone should have equality of access to the enjoyment of good food in all of its aspects and culture. Our work embraces community participation and ownership. We work with people who may have been socially or culturally marginalised from access to good food and aim to work together to make great food projects.



The Process

Over the last few years local residents have worked with creative social health organisation Squash Nutrition to grow and cook lots of fresh food in and around Toxteth. Together we have welcomed hundreds of people to community markets, cooked lots of soup in the dutch pot over the fire and grown 3 food gardens along Windsor Street. This year, we have been running pop-up cafes and food-growing sessions on streets in L8 and have been having lots of conversations about community wellbeing, tight family budgets and how Windsor Street could become a Food Corridor!

In response, the idea of a community food hub has been evolving, and is now really beginning to take shape. Through discussions, sharings and a successful bid to the Social Investment Business, Toxteth Food Central is coming in to being! This significant capital grant will help us to transform the piece of disused land on the corner of Windsor Street and Upper Warwick Street into a thriving community food asset.

About the TFC community design team:

Toxteth Food Central Design Team is made up of local residents including growers, artists, cooks, environmentalists, bee-keepers and passionate vegetable fans, alongside arts and health organisation Squash Nutrition and architecture firm URBED. Both Squash Nutrition and URBED believe that engaging with building and service users in the design process will produce a better outcome. The timeline below details the engagement process that has taken place so far. To date there have been 6 sessions, including site-visioning, a field trip, hands-on model-making and publicity:



Looking at example buildings and inspiring possibilities for Toxteth Food Central

Field Trip to Unicorn and Hulme Community Garden Centre in Manchester



Testing ideas by making models on a plan of the site



Explaining ideas to the whole design team



Toxteth Food Central

Site and Possibilities 2

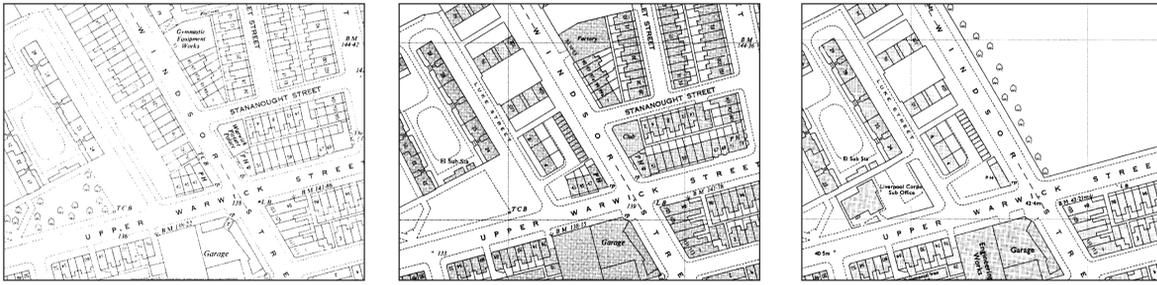
Location

The site is located on the corner of Windsor Street and Upper Warwick Street, which is a 15 minute walk from the city centre. It also lies on a national cycle route into the city centre.

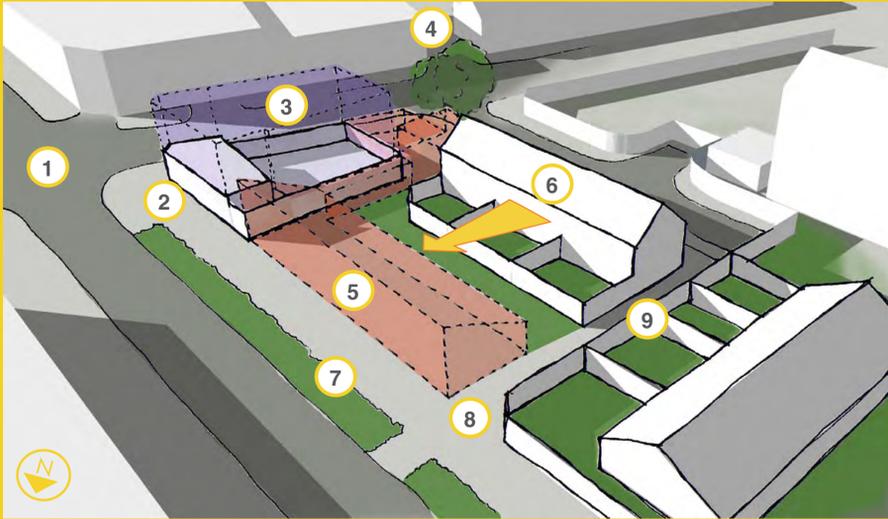


History

The site was originally houses, and then domestic garages, which have since been demolished. The maps below show the development of the area over time:



Site Analysis



1. Junction of Windsor Street and Upper Warwick Street.
2. Derelict Public House on Corner of Windsor Street.
3. Outline of proposed new apartment building (by others - not related to Toxteth Food Central Project).
4. Existing trees to be retained.
5. Approximate 'buildable' volume for Toxteth Food Central.
6. Houses on Luke Street and required distance to maintain privacy and prevent over-shadowing.
7. Existing grass verge - opportunities for planting and landscaping.
8. Pedestrian access from Windsor Street to Luke Street in poor state of repair.
9. Bungalows with rear access onto public footpath.



Above and top: View into site from Windsor Street, showing rear of houses on Luke Street.



View into the site from footpath between Windsor Street and Luke Street showing 'Fire Fit' to the left, the derelict pub on the corner of Windsor Street and Upper Warwick Street in the background, and the houses on Luke Street on the right.

Inspirations

In the design workshops we looked at existing buildings, to find out what might be possible at Toxteth Food Central. The images below are some of those chosen by the design team:



Energy Systems

The building will have very low energy use, making it easier to harvest the energy we will need from renewable energy sources such as solar power:

