



# Ahimsa Allotment & Solmune Community 2022 Survey Insights



## We shared a survey in December 2022 to...

- Understand People's Experience of the Allotment/Community
- Address any Challenges that may have occurred
- Collect Thoughts/Ideas on 'Off-Grid'/'Intentional' Community
- Help to Shape our Vision/Priorities moving forwards

30

people  
completed  
the survey\*

Thank you for taking part!

84%

## described their experiences at the allotment as 'very positive'

The remaining 16% answered 'mostly positive'. Positive comments referred to the **atmosphere, community, the garden itself, people, fun & celebration, healing/feeling better** after visiting and of course **Daz** himself.

*"I love spending time with Darren and his friends at the allotment. It's a beautiful lush and abundant green space in the heart of the city. There are always so many interesting activities happening there and lots of interesting people to hang out with. Darren has created a fun and inspiring haven in the heart of the city and his commitment to the greater good of his community is exceptional."*

There were only a **small number of comments describing negative experiences**. These referred to **discomfort and disconnect with some individuals** at the allotment, **discomfort with alcohol/drug use** or associated behaviour and a few instances of **conflict** that have occurred between visitors.

The allotment seeks to welcome all people, who inevitably bring a range of personalities, perspectives and personal challenges, which can occasionally lead to conflict. **Feedback suggests that such instances are typically handled well, but we acknowledge that more can be done to manage and mitigate such instances**, to give clear expectations around acceptable behaviour at the allotment and guidelines for dealing with any conflict, to help people feel as comfortable as possible.

**The allotment/community aim to be welcoming and respectful to everyone**, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality, spiritual beliefs, disability or any other difference. **88% agree we have been 'very successful' in this regard**. There was only **one experience of prejudice reported** at the allotment - while this appears to be a rare occurrence (as with 'conflict'), we will aim to develop clearer policies and processes to help to manage and mitigate such instances and ensure that everyone feels safe.

12

## survey respondents attended Solmune Festival - August 2022

11/12 described the festival as **'very good'**, with 1 answering 'quite good'.

All 12 said they are **'very likely' to attend similar events in future**.

Comments described a great event filled with **great people, food and activities**.

**Stay tuned to hear about more Solmune/Ahimsa Allotment events in future!**

Continue to the next page to read more about our plans and priorities for 'intentional community'

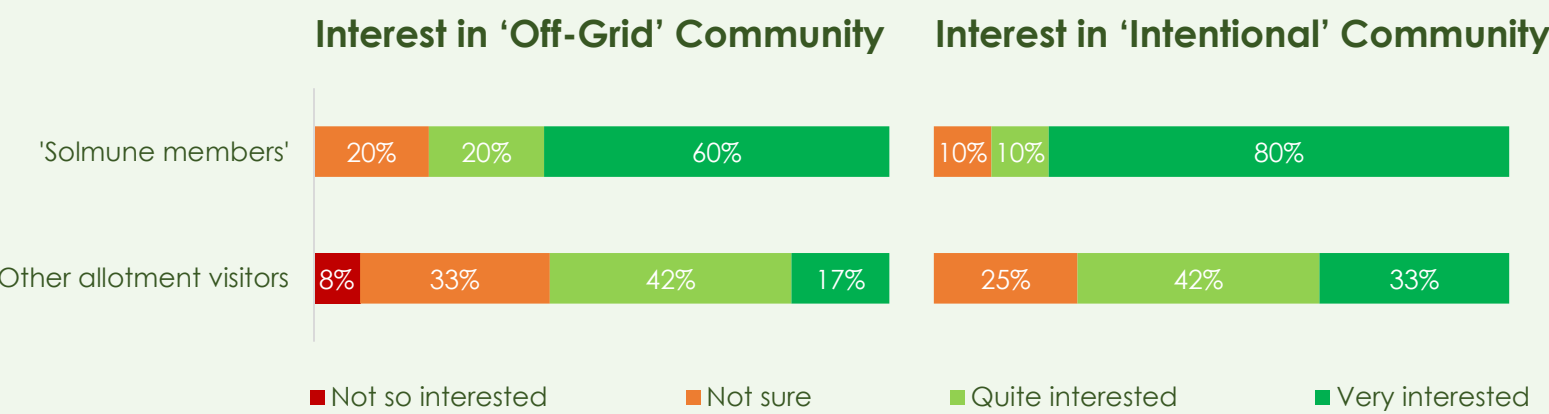
\*5 survey responses came after the deadline and so are not included in the statistics shown in this summary.

## Off-Grid and Intentional Community

Around two years ago, at the end of 2020, a group of people from the allotment started to meet to discuss the prospect of forming an ‘off-grid’ or ‘intentional community’, using the name ‘Solmune’.

Solmune originally started discussions with an emphasis on forming an ‘off-grid’ community - i.e. living together outside of ‘the system’ and becoming self-sufficient. While this is still a long-term goal for Solmune, our discussions more recently have emphasised the theme of ‘intentional community’ i.e. building ‘community with intention’; building connections and sharing skills and resources between people, which may or may not be ‘off-grid’ and can in fact build from where we are now.

**Survey results show that most people are more motivated by the idea of ‘intentional community’** than they are by living ‘off-grid’. ‘Solmune members’ were generally more interested in both ideas than other allotment visitors, but most visitors did also express interest in at least one of these ideas.



However, preferences as to **what ‘intentional community’ might look like differed significantly between existing ‘Solmune members’ and other allotment visitors**. Existing Solmune members identified vegetarian/vegan living and drug/alcohol-free as being key features of our ideal community and are generally opposed to raising animals for food. Many other allotment visitors held opposing views on these features. **Solmune may be best suited to people who see plant-based and sober living as ideal, and may be less suitable for people with other ideals or preferences.**

**Solmune is keen to promote ‘intentional community’ for all and to share related knowledge, but would also have a particular view of what this community would ideally look like, in future, which others may or may not be in alignment with.** Solmune encourages others to learn about and practise ‘intentional community’ and join a range of activities around the allotment and community, but would advise that our ‘long term visions’ about what community might look like (particularly if some of us move to live together) may differ from some others. These preferences and expectations will be made clear to anyone who wants to ‘join’ Solmune in future.

### Priorities & Next Steps for the Allotment/Community (based on survey comments)

- **Clarifying our Vision & Values** (What are we working towards with ‘intentional community’?)
- Developing a **Roadmap/To-Do List** to lead us towards our vision
- Developing a **Governance Structure** (we are trialling **sociocracy** as an approach to this)
- Developing **conflict resolution strategies** and policies for **drugs/alcohol** and **prejudice** around the allotment/community, to ensure people feel as safe and welcome as possible
- **Learning more about/working closer with nature**, developing a closer harmony with nature
- **Continuing to support one another**, sharing love, skills and knowledge through regular meetings

Existing ‘Solmune members’ will be working on these priorities in coming weeks and months. If there is anything that you would like to find out more about or get involved with, please get in touch with Daz (darrensunderland@outlook.com). Further updates will be shared with others in due course.

This research was conducted and presented by Dean from i&i insight. Dean is an experienced researcher as well as a long-time allotment visitor and Solmune community member. Dean recently started i&i insight, to provide research and consultancy services to support individuals, businesses and projects that are driven by real values, not just money. If you have any questions or comments about this survey and reported insights, or have any other projects or businesses you might need support with, please visit [www.iandiinsight.com](http://www.iandiinsight.com) and/or email [dean@iandiinsight.com](mailto:dean@iandiinsight.com)