



Communigrow Wish List 2026

Communigrow is a sustainable food education charity based in East Malling, Kent. We teach people how to grow food in a chemical free way in partnership with the natural world.

At our 2.5-acre environmentally friendly 'off grid' site, we use the sun for our energy, make our own compost and use a no-dig sustainable growing method.

Our charity promotes the mental and physical health benefits of gardening, being active outside and being part of a supportive and inclusive community group.

We also champion the benefits of eating healthy, fresh produce with a field to fork cookery element in many of our sessions.

We work with the whole community although a particular focus is on supporting vulnerable or disadvantaged groups: children, young people and adults with special educational needs, people experiencing bereavement, older adults and those with long-term health conditions.

Our charity benefits from the on-going support and generosity of organisations and individual donors through in-kind, monetary or pro bono support.

Our wish list below identifies resources that we need to maintain our services and support our beneficiaries while also helping the environment.

Can you help us by funding or providing any of the following items?

Email marketing@communigrow.org.uk to pledge your support



Sponsor a Sustainable Growing Bed – a little step towards making a big change

Our chemical free, no-dig growing beds use less water and release less CO2, making use of sustainable growing methods to grow our fresh veg. Each bed has its own growing plan – with the food it grows supporting all our other healthy living education –



and each one provides a new resource for the therapeutic work we do with both young people and adults. The outcomes for therapeutic gardening are fantastic, so each one of these beds represents an opportunity to improve local lives.

For more information on the benefits of no-dig, [visit the Royal Horticultural society website.](https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardening/no-dig-gardening)

Individuals and businesses can sponsor a vegetable bed at Communigrow.

Sponsorship options: £120, £240, £360 or £500 for an annual plot sponsorship



Improve our Wellbeing Tea Garden seating area

We have lots of different groups (beneficiaries, volunteers and staff) using our Tea Garden seating area. In therapeutic sessions the tea breaks – a chance to reduce loneliness, speak about things that are concerning you, meet new people and feel part of a community – are as important as the therapeutic gardening activities.

Our beneficiary numbers have grown every year. Rising from 443 in 2021 to over 1000 in 2024. In 2025 we added to this with two new therapeutic gardening groups: our Garden Gate group, for people experiencing bereavement, and our Time Out group for veterans and emergency services personnel. As a result, we are now a very busy site in need of more seating!

First impressions count and, particularly when working with people who have experienced grief or trauma. We want to make our social areas as welcoming, safe and appealing as possible to encourage people to relax and want to return.

At the moment we have a mismatch of very old donated garden furniture, which is not very appealing, uncomfortable and is often at the end of its usable life. It is also far from ideal for people with limited mobility, disability or who are frail.

Can you help us upgrade the Tea Garden seating, making it a welcoming and inclusive space for the community?

3 x locally made and sustainably sourced weatherproof pressure treated picnic benches with 15 year guarantee costing £935

Pergola for shade £2500 (includes installation)

Improvements to tea garden and surrounding flower beds £500





Weekend Family Workshop Funding for our 'Get Set Grow' Sessions

These are sessions for local families with children, particularly those living on low incomes.

They aim to get participants active outside, boosting mental and physical health, and fostering a love of nature, caring for the planet and gardening.



Harvesting food from the field, preparing and tasting encourages children to try new vegetables and develop a love of healthy food.

Cost per session from £150

Cost to run 10 sessions from £1500



Young Roots Group - funding April-December 2026

This is a fantastic weekly supported volunteering day for young adults who need additional support for various reasons. This may be because they have mild-moderate learning difficulties, are neurodivergent with support needs, may be socially anxious or have other mental health concerns, or who have little or no experience of work or volunteering.

These supportive and inclusive sessions help young adults become more physically active, improve their confidence and mental wellbeing and develop skills that can help them access the workplace.

We have seen participants thrive as part of this wonderful group, going on to take up courses in horticulture at college, secure employment, become mentors for other group members and make huge leaps in their social and communication skills.

This group is funded until March 2026 and we are currently looking to secure funding for its continuation for the rest of the year.

Running this group from April-December costs £6930.





Wellbeing Space container conversion

Our beneficiary numbers have really rocketed from 443 in 2021 to well over 1000 this year! Much of the work we do now is therapeutic in nature and we desperately need an additional space for these groups to use when the weather doesn't allow for gardening. This is particularly important for vulnerable groups such as our Gardening to Feel Great group for older adults, our Garden Gate Bereavement Support group and our Dose of Nature group for people with diabetes and hypertension.

We plan to convert a donated shipping container into a warm and welcoming wellbeing space for these therapeutic sessions. This would involve replacing windows, doors and flooring, decorating the inside and installing a wood burning stove.

Organisations funding this conversion project could have a plaque on the building acknowledging their support.

Estimated cost to complete this project £10,000





Support Our Sustainable Food Garden

Each year our sustainable garden produces plentiful chemical free veg. We use this in our 'field to fork' sessions with children and young people where they can harvest and cook with our produce, we sell it to the local community allowing affordable access to chemical free food and we donate it to other charities such as our local food banks and homeless care centres.

More than that, our food garden provides purposeful opportunities for education and therapeutic gardening activities with our beneficiaries – teaching people to grow their own food, helping them connect with nature and the natural environment, fostering a love of fresh, healthy food, and being part of a supportive, inclusive community.

Running the garden costs us £8330 a year and we are looking for a sponsor to help us meet these costs in 2026.

Sponsorship of our food garden in 2026 costs £8330





Communigrow Meadow Project

We have set aside an area of the Communigrow Garden to become our 'Meadow'. In this area we will encourage native fauna and flora to thrive creating an oasis for wildlife.

Attracting friendly pollinators will help with our regenerative farming and provide an additional feeding area for our CommuniBees.



The area will also include a small native copse using a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees to provide all round habitat and interest.

In addition to creating a beautiful wild space the meadow will also provide a valuable resource for our Field School Enrichment visits, our young visitors will be able to experience the 'real bugs life' helping to bring their learning alive.

To create our Meadow and Copse we need to make some investment in resources to ensure we create a long lasting space that provides a safe and secure area for our young learners and provides a wider range of habitat for local wildlife.

Smaller side gate and style to create a meadow look and also create a secure 'child friendly area': £500

Copse Area – to include 10x small native trees, 12 x shade tolerant shrubs/plants, woodland bulbs, natural seating areas, bat, bird and bug houses: £3160

Learning Aid Signs – to include 3x bespoke wooden signs Meadow, Pond and Woodland areas to show our young learners what to look out for. Sponsors would have their names on the signs : £2400

Event sponsorship: Communigrow Quiz & Bingo Nights

Business sponsors help cover the cost of these popular fundraising and profile-raising events that take place in Spring and Autumn.

Sponsors have their logo featured on all print and digital promotional materials and have a stand at the event itself. The quiz or bingo night is also a great opportunity to reach your local audience – we have more than 150 participants at each one – and they are also fun team-building exercises for your staff.

Cost to sponsor one event: £500





Signage – to inspire and educate!



In 2026 we'd like to improve the signage around our gardens to better inspire and educate our visitors and learners. Signage would explain things like:

- How our Bee Bank habitat works and why bees are so important to the natural world.
- What insects and wildlife can be found around our wetland pond area and popular dipping platform.
- How our no-dig beds work and how visitors can start using these principles in their own green space at home.

We also need a lot of functional direction signage – labeling our different buildings, signs for our vegetable shop etc – and a large 'Welcome to Communigrow' sign with a map of all our gardens and an explanation of their purposes.

Sponsors will have their support acknowledged on our signs.

Prices from £ 250.00

Sole Sponsorship of all our signs would be in the region of £ 3-4K



Solar lighting for our Barn



Our woodcraft barn is more than just a workshop, it's a place where volunteers, beneficiaries and staff can form friendships, find a sense of belonging and talk while completing practical tasks to support the charity. Young people learn basic wood craft / DIY skills and build their confidence using hand tools.

Solar lighting will make the barn a safer place for our woodworking activities, allow us to extend the

times we can use the barn and keep all our power tools (currently in competition for our existing solar panels) fully charged!

Cost for solar lighting: £650.00



Star Canopy replacement cover



The summer star canopy is iconic to Communigrow, providing shade from the sun and shelter from the rain from March to October for our beneficiaries and volunteers.

Raising it every spring is a favourite volunteer activity and marks the start of our growing season.

The cover to the star was destroyed in a storm in autumn 2025. The frame is fine, we just need a new cover.

It wouldn't be summer at Communigrow without the star canopy!

£1400 will get us a new 12m Star roof in 470gm Skyline PVC, including delivery.



Gardening/Field School Equipment – donations in kind

Giving our beneficiaries the best experience involves constantly repairing or replacing our essential tools and equipment, items like:

- Gardening Kneelers x 20
- Children's watering cans 2 litre x 10
- Children's gardening tools – trowels, forks, small hoes etc. x10
- Children's gardening gloves (in a range of sizes) x 15
- Biodegradable growing pots
- Reusable plastic crockery for our field to fork sessions





In-kind or pro bono donations

There are many diverse ways to help Communigrow. While the items on this lift have been identified as the most pressing need, we gratefully welcome donations of time, skills and your business product.

In-kind donation might include:

- Donations of garden furniture
- Printing of our info/flyers
- Digital marketing support (money for direct campaigns, signal boosting)
- Prizes for our events, particularly our Open Day on June 20th 2026

Pro bono support might include:

- Legal advice
- IT solutions