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Heading: Seeds of a future

By FATIMA MRAD

THE number of community gardens is expected to blossom with Canterbury Council deciding to establish new sites.

In October last year, Cr Linda Eisler recommended that council explore the option of setting up community gardens.

"I've had people in the community say 'can't we have one here can't we have one there'."

She said that it's "definitely good" that it's now happening and off the ground.

A council report found that three schools - Lakemba, Wiley Park and Hampden Park Public Schools - have already taken up the initiative, and interested schools include Riverwood, Harcourt and Ashbury Public Schools.

According to the report, residents who would benefit are individuals and families who live in high rise buildings, Rotary and Lions club groups and ethnic and cultural groups.

"There appears to be a community interest, and thus an opportunity to facilitate the development of community gardens in our area," the report read.

The report's strategy included sourcing interested groups and individuals in March, and facilitating discussion to achieve the development of community gardens.

Identifying possible sites in schools, public reserves, and other locations will be determined in April, and a \$20,000 seed funding provision will be made in the 2009/10 Draft budget to facilitate their establishment.

"It's fantastic," Cr Eisler said. "I'm really pleased.

"Even if there's no language, people find a way to communicate in a garden, share knowledge, expertise, time [and] labor, and it brings a sense of pride and joy in the community."