

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 16 January 2023

Title: Allotment Gates

Contact Officer: Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

Background

The Witney Allotment Association have made a request that the Town Council installs new vehicle gates at Lakeside and Hailey Road allotment sites. The gate at Lakeside is in a poor condition and likely dates to the early 90s. And the gate at Hailey Road allotment isn't a sufficient installation to prevent unauthorised access. To bring more uniformity over the council's allotment sites, improve security and for continued improvement the operations manager got contractors to also quote on a new gate a Newland allotment and reinstate the pedestrian gate for the allotments at Lakeside.

In 2021 the council installed new fencing and a pedestrian gate around the south end of Hailey Road allotments. Additionally, in 2020 the council installed a new wooden 5-bar gate over the entrance to the east of the allotment site. However, this gate hasn't prevented unauthorised access and is still a big problem for allotment holders.

Current Situation

The specification below is what contractors have quoted on across the three sites.

Allotment Gate Specification on all sites

- RAL: Green
- 1.8m Height
- Security Mesh Fencing
- Code locks on all pedestrian gates
- Drop bolts and latches on all vehicle gates

Lake Side Allotments

- Dual leaf vehicles gates for the northeast end
- Pedestrian Gate for southwest end with fencing to secure each side

Hayley Road Allotments

- Single leaf vehicles gate with smaller separate pedestrian gate

Newland Allotments

- Single pedestrian gate from Kingsfield crescent

To complement the new gates and help with council branding officers would also look at installing new signs on each gate welcoming users to the allotments with The allotments associations and Witney town council's wording.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

A new wooden 5-bar gate was installed at Hailey Road allotments in 2020 at the allotment association's request. Replacing it so early isn't a good use of council funds.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- Contractor 1 quoted: £7,035.00
 - Contractor 1 has missed the quotation for the pedestrian gate at lakeside allotments.
- Contractor 2 quoted: £10,552.00
- The earmarked reserve for the allotments would cover all the specified work.
- The allotment association have minimal reserves which wouldn't cover the works.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Consider the replacement of all gates and,
2. Delegate to the Operations Manager to select a contractor for the works.