

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 29 June 2020
Title: Allotments Update
Contact Officer: Operations & Estates Officer

Background

The purpose of this report is to update members on the current position regarding Allotments.

Current Situation

Hailey Road Allotments

I application for retrospect permission for a large poly tunnel in excess of the 2.5m x 3m agreed max size has been received, the Operations and Estates Officer has not been able to process due to shielding and dose require to visit site to access location etc. of poly tunnel before responding to the application.

Lakeside Allotments

A number of applications for retrospect permission have been received for structures in excess of the agreed 2.5m x 3m at this site, the Operation and Estates Officer does again need to visit this site to access these structures and their positions but is currently unable to do so whilst Shielding.

Newland Allotments

No retrospect applications for oversize structures have been received from this site.

Allotment Association

The Operations and estates Officer has not heard from the allotment association regarding composting since 18th November 19. When they were informed by the Operations and estates Officer they could compost on the sites using a T23 exemption certificate which they would need to apply for. To which they stated that they would look into they have not provided the Operations and Estates Officer any other information on this subject since.

The Operations and Estates Officer has requested today 17th June 20 an update on the current position on this matter.

A response was received on 17th June 20 after writing this report where the allotment association are recommending that at Hailey Road and Newland Mantis compost tumblers

are used to recycle the waste initially, these items cost £399 each along with 2 x composting Daleks available from WODC at a cost of £21.50 each.

For Lakeside Allotments they are recommending 2 or 3 composting bays concrete based with surrounding and dividing block walls. If these were installed, they would require WTC to assist with turning the compost using WTC's small tractor and front-loading shovel.

These bays would need to be designed and costed in order to give council an approximate cost.

The Allotment Association are also suggesting that this may also be suitable for the new West Witney Allotment site.

West Witney Allotments

Plans for these allotments are progressing well with the Project Manager for Persimmons Homes, currently we are at the final design stage copy of intended design attached.

Provided on the site will be 55 allotments of 3 sizes approx. Large 250sqm, Medium 125sqm and small 83.3sqm + 2 x Disabled allotments with raised beds.

Pathways are on compacted stone. Central main path 1.400m wide to avoid vehicles driving right into the allotments and parking.

Hard Standing for recycling etc. and base for Community hub of concrete.

Fenced all around with a 6 foot high green paladin type fence.

Double vehicular access gate.

Pedestrian gate to far end on main footpath.

Access track and car parking Tarmac.

16 Car Parking space 2 of which will be disabled.

32mm water supply.

Electrical connection.

Outline plans have been provided to the allotment association at the end of April 2020 for comment. The allotment association said they would take it to their committee, I have had one response on the 5th May from the Secretary and Chair of the allotment association to say how good the designs were and how much thought had gone into them and that Geoff Branner would be contacting me regarding the parking and Water troughs but I have heard nothing else since that date in regards to these allotments.

WTC will need to purchase Water troughs once the site is complete and install connections are being left on the water main to allow for easy connection.

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.

Financial implications

There is an associated cost to the Mantis compost tumblers of £399 x 2 = £798 + 4 x Dalek compost bins from WODC at £21.50 each x 4 = £86. The costs of these can be taken from the reduction in Grounds Contracts costs in no longer providing skips to site 2 x per annum.

Recommendations

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

1. The provision of Mantis compost tumblers and Dalek compost bins for Hailey Road and Newland Allotments at a cost of £884.
2. The Operations and Estates Officer looking at a design and cost for composting bays at both Lakeside and West Witney allotments.
3. Council agreement that WTC would provide services in turning the compost at both Lakeside and West Witney Allotments as and when required.