

HALLS CEMETERIES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: 18th January 2021

Title: Allotments update

Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer – John Hickman

Background

The purpose of this report is to update councillor on the current position regarding the allotments.

Current Situation

Newland & Hailey Road

4 x Composting converters have been ordered 2 for Newland and 2 for Hailey Road allotments as agreed previously by council. The Operations and Estates Officer is searching for an alternative to the Mantis Compost tumbler that had been agreed at these locations as well because these are currently not available. The allotment association has agreed to accept a suitable alternative.

The Operations and Estates Officer has not been able to process the application for retrospect permission for a large poly tunnel at Hailey Road Allotments of more than the 2.5m x 3m agreed max size which has been received due to time constraints.

Lakeside Allotments

The Operation and Estates Officer has not been able to process a number of applications for retrospect permission that have been received for structures in excess of the agreed 2.5m x 3m at this site.

Boundary tree works to pollard the Crack Willow trees to the Oxford and witney hotel and lakeside flats have been commissioned to be carried out week commencing 1st February both the Oxford and Witney Hotel and Lakeside Flats, Covenant Management have agreed to allow access to carry out the works. Only very limited access is available from the allotments themselves.

The Operations and Estates Officer has calculated approx. cost to construct a 3-bay composting area made from Oak sleepers 2.4m x 4.8m including base and fixings at £4.300 if constructed by the works team.

Windrush Place Allotments

Contractors have now commenced installing the boundary fencing, the allotment association are hopeful that the allotments will be ready to hand over to them for April 2021 however there is still a lot of work to be carried out. The Operations and Estates Officer is meeting with the Consortiums Project Manager for the Allotments again in early January.

The Operations and Estates Officer is consulting with the allotment association as to what Witney Town Council will provide on the site.

It should be noted the Allotment Association previously agreed to Composting toilets at the site, however a change in the committee has decided it would prefer a single standard flushing toilet connected to the main sewer. The Operations and Estates Officer has spoken about this with the Consortium's project manager, it seems that the main sewer is a substantial distance away and costs to install a main sewer connection at this point would be substantial. A cesspit or Septic tank have also been considered but again these options would also have a substantial cost and changes to the current layout of the allotment. Both options are very late in the day to be being considered at this point. The Operations and Estates Officer is in discussion still with the allotment association regarding the composting toilets.

The Operations and Estates Officer has calculated the Approx. cost of a 3-bay composting area 2.4m x 4.8m base already constructed on site. £3,369.60.

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

The Associated cost of Lakes side and Windrush Place Allotments composting bays to be taken from the earmarked reserve set aside for allotment provision and improvements.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the provision of 3 bay composting areas at both Lakeside and Windrush Place Allotments.