

HALLS CEMETERIES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: 8th March 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

Hailey Road

The allotment association has asked if council can give consideration to installing a new boundary fence to 3 sides of this site similar to that being installed at Windrush Place allotments.

The allotment association states that the current fence is in poor condition, they are suffering on going vandalism at the site with compost bins etc. pushed over. Teenagers are entering the site and using the Poly Tunnels to sit and hang around in, there is no boundary fence to the rear of the property's gardens and residents of Eastfield Road use the allotments as a shortcut to Farmers Close.

They are also requesting a new 6 foot tall vehicular gate and pedestrian gates with locking capability so only tenants of the allotment association can gain access as at the other allotments.

The Operations has asked if the issues are being reported on 101 to make the police aware.

Lakeside Allotments

The Operation and Estates Officer suggested to the Allotment Association that Witney Town Council could provide a 330ltr compost bin to each tenant if this was preferred to the 3 bay composting area as suggested by council, the Allotment Association discussed this with tenants and state that tenants would prefer the communal 3 bay composting bays are provided rather than these 33ltr bins being provided.

Following further flooding Issues again this year the Allotment Association has asked if there is something that can be done about this issue. The Operations and Estates Officer has checked the ditch that runs alongside the site and this is clear so not causing the issue. It would appear that the ground level of the allotments is lower than the water level that is

reached by Emma's Dyke when heavy or persistent rain fall occurs can be higher than the ground level therefore water from the ditch and Emma's Dyke are able to flow into the allotments. This also causes some concern that as Thames Water release untreated waste into Colwell Brook and subsequently Emma's Dyke during heavy or sustained rainfall could be entering the allotment site and contaminating the soil.

Windrush Place Allotment

The allotment Association have stated that they would wish to have the community composting bins at this site rather than council providing each tenant with a 330ltr composting bin.

Works on the allotments by the builder's consortium are nearly complete and the site will hopefully be handed over to Witney Town Council in the near future. There is still a substantial amount of work for Witney Town Council to complete hopefully these allotments can be handed to the allotment association by the end of April if possible.

Newland Allotments

The Allotment Association have asked if council can provide an Asgard 1.58m x 2.24m secure metal shed for these allotments so they are able to lock away the machinery used to keep the site tidy.

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

Recommendations

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

1. The provision of 3 bay composting areas at both Lakeside and Windrush Place Allotments.
2. The request that Council consider fencing Hailey Road Allotments
3. The request that council provide secure storage at Newland Allotments.
4. Council investigate the flooding issues at Lakeside Allotments.