

Report to Kimpton Parish Council

Name of working party: Allotment

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Report date: 16th July 2020

Council meeting date: 22nd July 2020

1. Key activities undertaken and items achieved in last period

New allotment tenants have been secured for the site and the vegetable trug has been rented. Five new allotment tenants have paid £100 deposit. Allotment tenants received an email at the beginning of lockdown.

Plot 22a has been vacated, which is the only vacant plot.

The bonfire site has been closed since lockdown. An alternative arrangement is being pursued by the Bench Working Party as the area is attracting rubbish. It is noted that rubbish is also being dumped in the hedgerows.

A padlock was installed at Hall Lane entrance gate but is tricky to use and consequently the padlock is often removed and the gate is left open.

There is a general improvement in the whole site with two exceptions that are to be followed up with the allotment tenants.

2. Intended achievements in next period

When it is possible to have a gang from the Bench Working Party, a skip will be hired for the taking away of non-combustible items that have collected on the site. Metal items will be removed from the site.

Emails will be sent to the two allotment holders who are not maintaining their plots to the required standard.

Consideration is needed to the overall security of the site, both from allotment tenants and village people dumping rubbish and also damage due to animal activity. The fear is that the dumping will continue unless security measures are taken.

An allotment working party site visit will be scheduled.

3. Items requiring Council decision

Some possible solutions to allotment security:

1. Pams Lane. Cut away the hedge by the entrance gate to give pedestrian access which meets legal requirement for the public right of way. Lock gate with key padlocks and let tenants have a key for a returnable deposit, say £15.
2. Padlock with keys on a returnable deposit basis for the pedestrian entrance gate at Hall lane.
3. Ban entry to all vehicles unless there is an allotment 'officer' present.
4. Fence whole site in with gates at Pams Lane and hire out keys. This will also deter animals but incur a capital cost. However, it would be likely to solve the problems once and for all.
5. Move the bonfire site elsewhere.

Allotment plot rentals 2020/21

Current charge 0.361 sq mt.

Should the council increase the square meter charge for the period 1/10/20 to 30/9/20 by 5% to avoid a possible bigger hike in the future.

Year	Plot Income	Expenditure	Subsidy	% increase
2013/14	£1,255	£1,675	£407	New pricing
2014/15	£1,460	£2,412	£952	10%
2015/16	£1,536	£1,749	£213	3%
2016/17	£1,645	£1,716	£71	0%
2017/18	£1,509	£2,324	£815	10%
2018/19	£1,701	£2,119	£418	5%
2019/20	£1,913	£1,290	(£623)	

Expenditure 2019/20

To date:

Site rental	£335
Water	£214
Water	£274
Padlock	£ 15
Allotment fee	£257
Skip	£195
TOTAL	£1,290