

WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL— OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE 17TH MAY 2021

ITEM 8 I & II – CONSULTATION RESPONSES FROM ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT REVIEW

Author:	Clerk
Strategic Goal:	Goal 2. Celebrate and protect our environment, landscape, heritage, and facilities
Strategic Aim:	2 .4 Preserve existing services and facilities
Summary:	To address comments received following recent consultation

Purpose/Background

The Open Spaces Committee undertook a review of the existing Allotment lease and produced a revised version. This was circulated to all current allotment holders seeking their views and comments of the draft version.

Responses and comments

Comments were received from three separate allotment holders, and a separate comment was received from a local resident, with concerns relevant to the allotments. Comments were:

- i) **Section 6 j, e, p** New tenancy suggests that we need to get written permission in advance to plant bushes. I have a number of gooseberry bushes, blueberries and a blackcurrant bush. Would these be included as bushes or could an exception be made for fruit bushes. Feel 6 (e) and 6 (p) should be enforced.
- ii) **Section 11**
Unsure why a person becoming bankrupt would need to forfeit their allotment.
- iii) **Footpath - clarification needed on permissive footpath (for and against)**
The signs imply not (at least for the public) and some allotment holders have blocked the route and tell people off for walking up there.
I see no harm in people walking up there. It provides a much safer route to the end of Littleworth especially for families with young children. I know there is interest by local groups to encourage use of Littleworth Nature Reserve and this path leads to it.
Having a permissive route with appropriate signage as the Howe Trust have done would be such a benefit to villagers. Since the work on the steps by Wheatley Wanderers on the old railway line that area has been so much more inviting.

Our back garden borders with Littleworth allotments. When we bought the house, we were told that there is no public footpath through the allotments. There is a sign on both sides of the allotment area confirming the same - there is no right of way and dogs are not allowed.

We are very disappointed to see people walking very frequently through the allotments regardless. Sometimes they walk in large groups, with dogs and children and they even wave their hands at us We find this very unpleasant and adds to the overall stress of the lockdown.

- iv) **Plot boundaries** The boundary plots are marked on posts and still visible. Plot 8 has moved into part of Plot 9 and shared allotment holders have made a continuation of the allotments from their house boundaries to align with their gardens. This resulted in the lower pathway disappearing. There is now no communicating proper pathway through. Deliberately or otherwise, one feels intimidated trying to access through a garden gated area, also just not possible if communicating holders are trying to struggle with a wheelbarrow etc.

Plot 7 can only access from the public footpath at Plot 10. A clear pathway, uncluttered, not gated, for wheelbarrow access must be reinstated.

These are not gardens that can be altered to correspond with properties but measured sized allotments and to be used as such. I have had allotments for some 50 years and was always told 75% should grow produce/fruit etc., but not lawns, otherwise the tenancy would be terminated and offered to others wanting an allotment.

Recommendation

To consider these comments, make any necessary amendments and to address issue of footpath in/through the allotment site.