

Allotment Advisory Group
Meeting Notes
3rd November 2021

1. Updates

Plots – 14b and 10b are both vacant but Sarah expects that they will be taken in the next week or so. All plots will then be allocated and, in the main, tended.

Albert Jackson, Plot 32, was about to give up. Mike Conway has offered to pay for, dig and share the plot with Albert to allow him to continue. Mike hopes to benefit from Albert's experience.

Pest Control – the group has decided to stay with Cambridge Pest Services at the current level of cover until the contract comes to an end. The situation with the rats will be reviewed again at this point and if necessary, we will go out for quotes from other companies.

2. Budget 22/23

Sarah will email Sue Ashwell to request that a skip be added to the budget as an annual cost. The estimated cost, based on this year's price, is £400.

3. Community Area

Sarah has asked 2 tradesmen for quotes to erect the shelter in the community area. Unfortunately they are both really busy and as yet haven't produced a price, though both have expressed an interest in doing the job. Sarah will chase.

The village handymen have said that they will level the bank of earth along the side of the area as they want to use the soil to level sunken graves. This will make the area easier to mow and keep tidy.

4. Fencing

Mark has acquired 3 quotes to replace the fencing along the Silver Street side of the site a follows:

Huntree	£9480.00
St Neots Fencing	£7742.81
ND Fencing	£6698.00

ND Fencing is the preferred choice, not only on cost but also confidence that they will do a good job. They have said that they can begin work in January.

The lease with the Church Commissioners states that all fences must be kept in good order and therefore the group has decided to fence across the 3 gates that give access to private gardens. This will ensure that we are not in breach of contract.

Sarah will write to affected plot holders to explain why this is being done.

5. Seed Share

A plot holder has approached Mark to ask if we can set up a seed share.

The group supports this idea and Mark will buy a sturdy plastic box that can be weighted down and used for this purpose. No funds will be needed from the budget as we have had a £20 donation and Mark has generously offered to donate the extra £5 needed for the purchase himself.

Seed sharing will hopefully reduce waste and encourage plot holders to try growing something different.

6. A.O.B.

Rosie suggested we produce a leaflet for new plot holders with ideas and encouragement to begin work on their new plots straight away. This will help to get plots under control quickly and hopefully keep them that way.

Date of Next Meeting – to be agreed