

The Queen's Hall
High Street
Cuckfield
West Sussex
RH17 5EL

01444 451610

01444 454276

ACE Committee Meeting 15 October 2020

ACE016.e: Report on Plots WG22-28

1. Introduction

In an email message dated 16/09/2020, [REDACTED] (tenant of plot WG19) suggested that a number of current tenants would be interested in taking over responsibility of some vacant plots which are currently overgrown and unmanaged. Her suggestion is that they would “like to clear the land and then manage it for a community area including orchard underplanted with wildflowers, child friendly zone, polytunnel and other shared growing resources and facilities”.

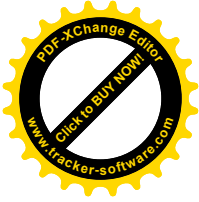
2. Approach

I took a look at the site on the afternoon of 22nd September.



3. Findings

The area in question is large – approximately 55m long x 20m wide, so around 1,000m² in all. Much of the grass stands over 6 feet high and the area is thick with undergrowth (mainly brambles). A couple of footpaths have been created by people walking through the grass to the estate on the other side of the south



ditch (presumably Buttinghill Drive). There is evidence of certain metallic items (chicken wire fencing and bicycle parts?) that have been left there, as well as a square concrete post (see photos below), but overall I do not believe it would be difficult to create a space that could be developed in the ways that [REDACTED] is proposing.



4. Costs

I have not sought any estimates yet, but I know this is the sort of work that [REDACTED] would be able to undertake and I would suggest we invite them to supply quotes for the clearance work.

5. Recommendations

Whilst I have not inspected the overgrown area in detail, I do not believe it is likely to contain any items that would present a danger to future development work.

To be on the safe side, I would suggest we put up a sign to deter visitors from entering the area, and then arrange for the clearance of all surface vegetation and any other items by a contractor such as those mentioned in para 4. to prepare the site for eventual development along the lines of Ms Stewart’s proposal, subject to that being ratified by council.

Name: Paul Stevens
Title: Operations Officer
Date: 25 September 2020