

**ACE016.e To consider a proposal for the vacant plots at Whitemans Green Allotment Site and agree next steps**

**Shared space at WG allotments**

**Summary**

A small group of allotment holders from the Whitemans Green plots are interested in managing the currently very overgrown and unmanaged land opposite the plots 23 & 25. This appears on the plans to be plot 26 and the western half of plot 28.

We would like to clear the land and then manage for a community area including orchard underplanted with supporting flowers, child friendly zone, polytunnel and other shared growing resources and facilities.

**Proposers**

As a team we have been previously successfully at securing almost £5k of grant from the Sussex Lund on behalf of the school for development of the wildlife pond and butterfly meadow. Projects which we are currently managing. We also have the support of several other plot holders.

Figure 1. Location – OS leisure map



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Figure 2. Plan of allotment site (supplied by CPC). Area of interest outlined in blue.

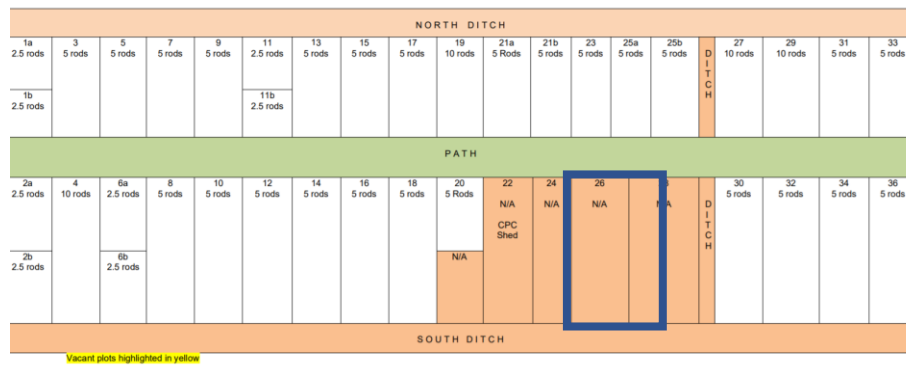
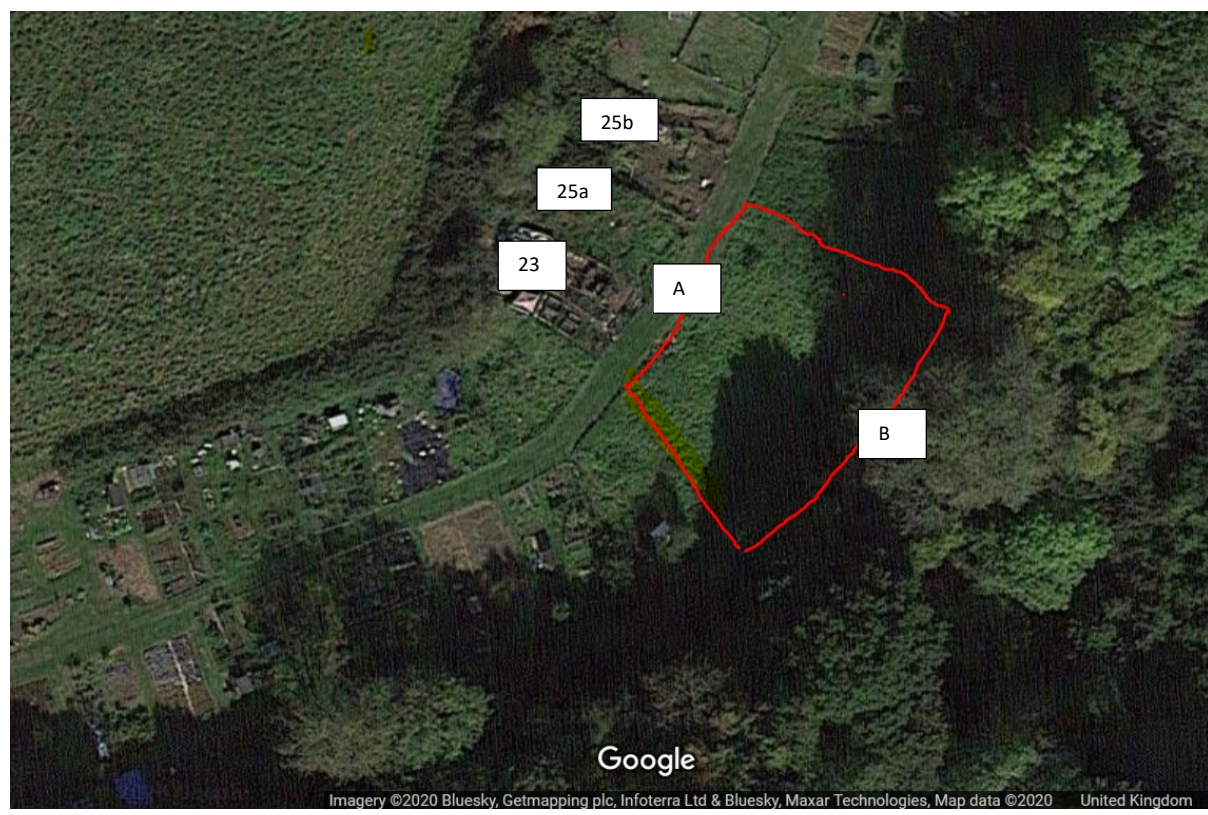


Figure 3. Aerial view (retrieved from google maps 29/09/2020)



**Description**

Land is bounded by a small footpath/animal track to the west, to the central allotment path on the North-West, and to the south-east by the line of the old coppice under the tree line. The North-east boundary is currently indeterminate but is approximately 3 m North of another small footpath just before it gets to the area that is more densely overgrown with bramble. We believe this coincides with Plots 26 & half of 28 on the plans supplied by the Parish council.



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***Current state***

Figure 4. Photograph from location A. looking SE.



Figure 5. Photograph from location B looking NW



Figure 6. Rubbish on the site





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Figure 7 - plans



Figure 8. Example of seeds for underplanting fruit trees



Plans – as illustrated in the aerial photo above, may have to be adjusted depending on the conditions underfoot.

1. Clearance of rubbish – there is some visible rubbish on this site (old carpet and chicken wire). This will need to be removed with care and will be taken to the amenity tip near Burgess Hill.
2. Strimming and clearance of bramble

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3. Willow – there is a willow tree attempting to establish itself, this should be removed.
4. Removal of other small saplings.
5. Assessment of ground and planning for final locations
6. Polytunnel or equivalent covered structure



I would like to propose the following arrangement:

1. I will take on the responsibility for communication and admin with the Parish Council on this area, so you have a single point of contact on behalf of the group involved.
2. Due to the state of the land and the existing rubbish to be cleared from it, we propose that we do not pay the deposit for the plots and that the fee is waived for the remainder of this financial year 2020-21, and for next financial year 2021-2022.
3. The group involved (all to be existing plot holders at WG) will give either a financial contribution towards the plot (if one required by the Parish council in future years), or materials, materials, plants or time/labour contribution. Currently this would be an informal agreement and as our plans establish, we may need to adjust.
4. Flexibility will need to be considered for the plans, pending clearance of the area and subsequent assessment of the underlying ground conditions.
5. As consideration, in lieu of rent, in the following years, the team are prepared to consider continuing the efforts to clear the bramble and nettles either side of identified area to establish some small “starter plots”. These would be smaller plots where potential new plot holders can take on and manage a smaller area before they commit to taking on a larger plot.

We look forward to your consideration on this matter,

Resident

Cuckfield, October 2020