



Assets, Community and Environment Committee meeting

18 February 2021

ACE032.c - Whitemans Green Allotment Site Working Group (WGAS WG) Progress Report 1

1. Introduction

The major aim of the meeting held on 3 February 2021 was to clarify the proposal to be brought before the ACE Committee meeting on 18 February 2021 and to address issues and concerns raised by an allotment holder.

2. Approach

Concerns raised by some tenants are that the Community Area will attract more children to the allotment site. The Working Group concluded that the proposed shaded location of the children's area would not take away land that would be readily used for plots and that this would be somewhere for the children to congregate and be easily supervised.

The WG tenants have already cleared the proposed area of brambles.



Rubbish included a lot of chicken wire and carpet, as well as some random items like a bike pannier carrier, a broken hot drinks flask and a saucepan as well as plastic. The ground needs to firm up to get a vehicle down there in order to take the rubbish to the tip. If this is likely to be a while then the WG tenants will ferry the rubbish to the top of the site in a couple of weeks.

A scaled plan will be prepared by Sharon Stewart detailing the overall plan and how the subareas are to be used as soon as the weather improves. It is proposed to include the following in the plan;

Shaded children's area and relaxation area;
Polytunnel;
Community orchard;
5 half plots as overflow areas for allotment users.

It was further suggested that the area east of the new Community Area be made available for future tenants to clear and develop new plots (rent free for 2 years).

3. Findings

Before a plan is put in place we need to agree on how the drainage will be handled. There are two proposals from plot holders, the first is to improve the ditches behind the current plots, this should prevent the run off coming through the mole runs under the plots. The second thought is to put in another drain/ditch arrangement. The WG would be happy with either of these approaches (or both?), but this will impact on the plan.

One of our tenants who has a large rotovator is willing to lend it to anybody who takes on a new plot that needs to be rotovated. He also has a chainsaw and would be happy to cut back any of overhanging branches around the Community Area.

Contrary to our knowledge the same tenant advised that the proposed Community Area and neighbouring plots were previously cultivated about six years ago.

4. Costs

N/A.

5. Recommendations

- a) Proposal to be accepted by members of the ACE Committee.
- b) No rent to be charged for 2 years from 1 April 2021 – mechanism for future charging yet to be detailed.
- c) Formal communication to be made to all WG tenants with verbal follow up from members of the Working Group.

Name: Martin Sheldon
Title: Chairman, WGAS WG
Date: 12 February 2021