

Report Statement

Report Purpose:

Allotment Report

Author:

Town Clerk

Background:

Allotment sites managed by own association:

- South Park
- Birtles Road
- Moss Lane
- Laburnum Road
- Brookfield Lane

Managed by Macclesfield Town Council

- Knowsley Road
- Springfield Road
- Park Grove

The sites managed by Macclesfield Town Council bring in a rent amount of £

The sites that are self-managed keep the income from their allotment rents.

Allotment Budget Figures

£17,781 left in the budget for this year.

£8,158.97 in Ear Marked reserves.

£ 752.77 in income

Total: £ 26,692.74

Total Spend this year so far:

£1485 – Trees at Birtles Rd

£375 - Skip for Knowsley Rd

£111.36 – Gravel for car park at Knowsley Road

£191.52 fencing at Knowsley Rd

£180 – Drainage at Springfield

Pending:

£ 380 Gates and fencing at Byron Rd (they paid 50%)

£ 850 Tree at Park grove

Total £3374.02

£8000 has been budgeted for maintenance next year. This is for tree maintenance, drainage and fences where possible.

Proposal 1 Knowsley Road Allotments fencing

The Project Officer has looked at fencing at Knowsley Rd as there has previously been a request from a plot holder, as 2 have had issues with trespassing and some of the fencing does need replacing. The current fencing is chestnut paling fencing.

Option one:

To replace all the fencing with metal fencing

Best quote: £13,300 (Frontier Fencing, Stockport)

Pros: Long term solution

Possible long lead time.

Cons: Very expensive

Option two:

To replace the necessary fencing with paling fencing

Best quote: £967.62 (Town Rangers)

Pros: The rangers can complete this work by the end of the year.

Cons: will not have the longevity, however is much cheaper.

The rest of the fencing will need replaced at some point.

Proposal 2 Allotment works and funding

At present all allotments request funding from the Town Council as and when they need it for example for tree maintenance and drainage or security.

As established, there is an amount for health and safety maintenance in the budget and an amount of ear marked reserves. As many allotments are self-managed, the rental income goes directly to the allotment association. To respond to all requests for funding is not possible and expensive. Therefore, there is a need to establish a fair way to help as many allotments as possible, while encouraging them to apply for external funding as suggested in the draft allotment strategy.

Historically some allotments have paid 50% of necessary work, with the Town Council paying the other 50% while others expect 100% of the work to be paid for by the Town council.

To consider:

- All self-managed allotments to apply for funding from the Town Council including a copy of their accounts which is then presented to the appropriate committee for approval (unless the work is urgent).
- Town Council Officers to present to the appropriate committee cost of works for town council managed allotments for approval.