

Allotment Safety Advisory Visit 21/02/23

4 x allotments were visited today Sussex road, Church Road, Long Acre and Fen Park. The following advice and recommendations are for these sites.

Sussex Road



The photos above show the outside of the far side of the allotment, the bushes are beginning to overgrow to the path adjacent and need to be managed and monitored to prevent effecting the pathway. The other two photos show a large build up of waste in the brambles and bushes which need to be removed, general waste and also bags of dog poo were found. This has been an issue for the allotment as multiple bags of dog poo have been stated to have been thrown over.



Pallets should not be left out by the fences where possible as this increases the risk of arson to the area. It is advised that pallets are kept further inside the allotment and also reduced where possible to mitigate this risk.

Broken glass should be removed, it was seen that waste glass was left out and any damaged glass should be removed to prevent injury.



By the Gelp side of the allotment there is a large gap in the fence and this gap allows easy access to the area from the Gelp, it is recommended that this fence be repaired correctly to help prevent easy access to the area where possible. There is also a build up of combustible materials by this access point which should be removed as this could be inviting for arson.



Waste should be minimised where possible at the site. Housekeeping should look to be improved as a few sections of the allotment had build up of waste materials.

Further Advice:

Due to the opening in the fence and the waste being thrown over there does appear to be a security issue at the site. It is recommended that security be improved where possible to help reduce/prevent this issue. Types of improvement would be:

- Higher fencing on the gelp side of the site.
- Signs warning of trespassing and also littering in the area.
- CCTV or false CCTV cameras to be a deterrent.

Church road



The noticeboard should be improved, a suitable fixed board with relevant information should be provided at the entrance.

The concrete post at the entrance was loose and should be removed or repaired to prevent its fall and possible injury of a person.



Fencing in the allotment requires to be monitored and repaired where required as some were seen to be slopping over and could possibly fall over and injury a person.



Tyre removal is currently being organised and a few were seen to be around this allotment and by the perimeter bushes.



Waste build up was an issue at the site with sections of the allotment having build up within them. It was also seen that one allotment was being solely used for waste. This should not be occurring and should be addressed.



Asbestos sheets were found in the allotment 4th on the right (the allotment with 4 sheds). Asbestos was stated to have been removed previously and this means the sheets seen have been brought in. Ensure the tenant of this allotment is spoken with and that the sheets are correctly removed from the site.



The perimeter fencing was an issue in two sections, by the road the brambles were overgrowing and stretching the fencing over. This should be addressed as the issue will only get worse with time. The fourth allotment areas perimeter fencing was also flat over the Gelp side. This will need to be made safe to prevent a potential fall.

Long Acre



The long acre allotment was seen to be a well setup and ran allotment, good fencing, signs and housekeeping were seen overall.

All allotments had good housekeeping throughout with only one section holding a build up of waste to be removed.

This allotment as well as Fen park are the standard of allotments hoped to be seen and maintained.

Fen Park



This allotment as stated above was of a good standard overall with good fencing and a secure gate, however it is recommended that the broken glass seen left out and the noticeboard upon entry be addressed. The glass should be removed to prevent injury, the noticeboard should be fixed and easily visible upon entry to the site.

Conclusion

As stated Fen park and Long Acre were of a good standard overall, Sussex road and Church road should be improved to a similar standard where possible.

One area that all allotments could benefit from is a universal lock system, entry could be via a code or master key provided to all allotment tenants. This would ensure good security as well as provide all tenants with ease of access.

It is also recommended all sites have improved signage and noticeboards where applicable to ensure information is easily able to be read and seen.