

## **Barrow Parish Council**

### **Floyer Lane Allotments — Statement from the Council, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Prior to any work being undertaken by the Parish Council in spring this year, little or no investment had been made by the Parish Council to maintain the grounds.

The allotment area historically had been divided into a number of plots — but with no plan or site layout, the number of plots was thought to vary between 6 and 9.

At the start of 2019, only two of the plots had active tenancy agreements. The remaining plots were tenancy-lapsed; or vacant; or occupied by tenants who were no longer eligible to hold a tenancy agreement.

Expressions of interest in taking a plot had been received by the Parish Council from eligible parishioners but with the allotment land in such poor condition the Parish Council did not feel able to offer any plots.

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies were available to the Parish Council but could only be spent on eligible community improvement work. The Parish Council took the view that Allotment improvement was a suitable use for the money.

The boundary hedging, like all open land fencing, needed managing in order to maintain strong growth and health, and any work needed to be completed before the breeding season commenced.

The work to improve the grounds was put to open tender. Three land management contractors bid for the work and, following the absention of any councillor who may have had interest in the awarding of the contract from the Parish Council meeting, a contractor who offered a fixed price contract was appointed. That work has now been completed.

In order to ensure that accurate and informed advice was available on the management and control of Allotment Gardens the Parish Council joined the Allotment Association. One of the first facts that the Parish Council discovered was that The Allotments Act of 1925 was still active and that the Allotment Land at Floyer Lane could not be sold or otherwise be disposed of without the express authority of a Minister of State.

The Allotment Association advised on site security, access, and potential Health and Safety issues and their impact on Public Liability Insurance; advice upon which the Parish Council felt obliged to act.

They have also provided a template for a Tenancy Agreement. The Parish Council have taken the template and created a formal Tenancy document that will be required between all tenants who now wish to take advantage of the potential to cultivate an allotment garden within the Floyer Lane allotment site.

A group of Parish Councillors undertook to survey the Allotment Land in order to create a formal plot map. This work is now complete and a total of 3 full plots and 9 half plots have been identified.

Allotment plots will be offered to any current Tenant subject to satisfying eligibility criteria. Thereafter should there be more potential Tenants requiring plots than are currently available, and ordered by their position on a waiting list, to Parishioners and local residents living within 3 miles of the Allotment garden who satisfy eligibility criteria.

The Parish Council has been working for the Parish to bring the Allotment land back into full and productive use and create an asset within the Parish.

N.Downes  
Chair to Barrow Parish

J Madeley  
Council Clerk to Barrow Parish Council