

Assistant Town Clerk allotment report for Environment meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

Due to staff shortages, of both officers and ground staff, a summer inspection has not been completed. An inspection will be carried out before the tenancies are made available for renewal in September.

Concerns have been raised regarding deer getting onto the Watch oak site and on 26<sup>th</sup> July there was also a report of 3 sheep on the site. Ground staff have previously carried out significant work to weave the hedgerow to deter sheep and deer but work undertaken from the agricultural side has cut much of this back. Once the owner of the sheep has been determined a request will be made to ensure they cannot gain access to the allotment site.

With regard to deer, it is advised that any fencing should be a minimum of 1.8m in height. This is cost prohibitive for Council as the 2 sides open to the adjacent fields would need to be fenced. I attach information regarding other deterrents for consideration.

The judging for the allotment awards saw Cherry Gardens and Watch Oak achieve awards. Council is keen for tenants to look towards sustainable planting and rain water capture to reduce the need for mains water.

**Cherry Gardens**

The site is full with a waiting list of 5 people.

**Netherfield Hill**

1 vacancy at this site.

**Virgins Croft**

The site is full with a short waiting list.

**Watch Oak**

The site has several vacancies.

JdG  
26 July 2022