



To: Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places: Councillor Rod Cantrill
Report by: Alistair Wilson
Relevant scrutiny Community 15/3/2012
committee: Services
Scrutiny
Committee
Wards affected: From East Chesterton to West Chesterton

NEW ALLOTMENTS AT KENDAL WAY

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

In order to formalise the conversion of land under HRA ownership into allotments authority is required from the Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places to proceed.

The proposed allotments are off a track from Kendal Way 2, Cambridge, which almost exactly mirrors existing allotments (Kendal Way 1) from another track the opposite side of Kendal Way.

It is Streets & Opens Spaces recommendation that this work is commenced prior to the nesting season, and the advice is that this should be prior to the end of March.

The Executive Councillor for Arts, Sport and Public Places is therefore being asked to agree that the land at Kendal Way edged red on the attached plan (being no longer required for housing purposes) be appropriated for allotment purposes under section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Executive Councillor for Housing has been consulted on this proposal.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- Agree the conversion of land under HRA ownership into allotments.

3. Background

In June 2009, the Allotments Section of Arts & Recreation costed a scheme to convert the derelict land off Kendal Way into allotments in order to put in a capital bid to secure funding to carry out the works.

Anticipated costs were calculated for the first phase of site clearance and installing fencing which came to £9,434.80. Further costs of removing any hazardous waste, water and making improvements to the access were also estimated. It was expected that the budget to carry out the necessary works would be met by from S106 funding. This was overturned by a new planning ruling that allotments did not provide access for all and the project was shelved while a planned Review of Allotments Provision was carried out.

On 25 March 2010 at Community Services Scrutiny Committee, a Management Policy for Allotments was considered and approved for consultation by the Ex Cllr for Arts and Recreation (agenda item 9 Community Services Scrutiny Committee . This document makes reference to the Kendal Way plot of land as being suitable for allotment land (page 144 of agenda 5.6/ of the policy – copied below).

“5.6 Provision of New Sites

Areas of land that may be suitable for allotments are notified to Active Communities after having been given priority to land searches for affordable homes. Two areas of land that are not suitable for affordable housing have been identified for appropriation at Wulfstan Way and Kendal Way.”

The Management Policy, following the consultation, was agreed at Community Services Scrutiny Committee by the Ex Cllr for Arts and Recreation on 14 October 2010.

On 1 July 2010, at Community Services Scrutiny Committee, the Executive Councillor for Housing approved, as part of the Annual Review of 3 year Affordable Housing, that land at Kendal Way was **not** suitable for housing and available for allotment land (agenda page 93 item 11 and appendix 11b- copied below)

“1 Kendal Way (East Chesterton) – 10 Units

Infill. Planning and access issues re development of this site - both would be hard to overcome. This site has now been approved as allotment land in Cambridge Allotment Management Policy (March 2010). It is recommended not to pursue for housing Development”

In September 2011, after the Streets & Open Spaces (Assets) restructure put in place the Assets Team, the Kendal Way proposal was revisited and costed again – the costs are now estimated at £9,034.04 for site clearance and fence installation.

In line with the Management Policy and that there remains a waiting list city demand for allotments the Executive for Arts, Sport and Public Places asked that the allotment provision at Kendal Way 2 be progressed as soon as possible with funding of £15,000 to carry out the conversion being provided in the 2012/13 capital plan – this is for Empty Common as well as listed in the committee report.

A requirement prior to progressing this work is a formal resolution from the Executive Councillor to appropriate the land for allotment use under the Local Government Act 1972.

4. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

(b) **Staffing Implications** (if not covered in Consultations Section)

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

*Has an Equality Impact Assessment been conducted on this strategy/policy/procedure/process/service change/decision? **Yes***

(d) **Environmental Implications**

As part of this section, assign a climate change rating to your recommendation(s) or proposals. You should rate the impact as either:

- L: low negative impact.

Follow the guidance on the intranet at <http://intranet/sustainability/policies-and-procedures.html>

(e) **Consultation**

Please state what you have done / are planning to do by way of consultation

To Do: Letters to local residents; informing those on the relevant allotment waiting lists

The Councils Code of best practice on consultation and community engagement can be accessed via:

<http://intranet/Guidelines/code-of-best-practice-on-consultation-and-community-engagement.pdf>

(f) **Community Safety**

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

If an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken please include details in the background papers

6. Appendices

Appendix One: Map.

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name:	Declan O'Halloran
Author's Phone Number:	01223-458523
Author's Email:	declan.o'halloran@cambridge.gov.uk