

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Environment Committee

Tuesday 30 May 2023

Decision Report 2

Additional Allotment Sites

Recommendations

The Committee RESOLVE to consider the identified sites as additional allotment sites along with the indicative costs:

- **All the sites would need a planning change of use approval and licence agreement from NCC Estate Management.**
- **A consultation exercise would have to be conducted with the residents around the boundaries of each site.**

Should the Committee wish to explore further any of these further Officers will carry out further work etc.

Ward

Cowpen /Isabella

Risk Management

There is no budgetary provision for the additional allotments and members would have to agree to draw on reserves to fund these new allotments.

Objective

Allotments are seen as another form of exercise for all ages and additionally being able to grow fruit and vegetables for a healthy lifestyle.

Report

Officer were asked to identify sites which would potentially be suitable for additional Allotments. This could be another way of reducing the ever-growing waiting list which we have again, it is obvious from the addresses of those applying to go on the waiting list the vast majority are from the new housing estates around Blyth. They would all require developing which would require external fencing and internal fencing along with water supplies being installed.

Appendix 1

This site would give the Council 10 additional plots, would require external and internal fencing along with a water system at an indicative cost of **£55,000.**

Appendix 2

This site would give the Council 14 additional plots, would require external and internal fencing along with a water system at an indicative cost of **£65,000.**

Appendix 3

This site would give the Council 10 additional plots, would require external and internal fencing along with a water system at an indicative cost of **£55,000.**

Appendix 4

This site would give the Council 50 additional plots, would require external and internal fencing along with a water system at an indicative cost of **£125,000 to £150,000.**

If any of the options were to progress and the correct costs were sought from contractors, we would then be in a position to give a return on investment. As it stands using the current indicative costs against income it would take:

- Approximately 52 years to recover the outlay on Appendix 1 & 3 start off costs.
- Appendix 2 would take approximately 44 years to recover the outlay costs and break even.
- Appendix 4 which would be the largest identified site would take 28 years to recover the outlay costs and break even.

The figures do not include year to year running costs, it would give residents the opportunity to grow produce to live a healthier lifestyle by way of eating and exercise.

D Clough
General Services Officer

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