

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	A6 TOWNS FORUM	Item 8	Page 1 of 3
Report Originator	Carole Stephenson Community Services Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	27 th July 2016	
Title	Allotments in the Borough		

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide general information in respect of allotments provision in the Borough

2. **INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Kettering Borough Council (KBC) is only one provider of allotment provision in the borough; other allotments are privately owned and rented out to plot holders. KBC own eleven allotment sites in the Borough that are managed and operated by Allotment Associations or Parish Councils. We do hold contact information for some privately owned sites. Where known, full location and contact details may be found on KBC's website. Private allotment sites are invited to be added to the website on request.
- 2.2 In 2006, KBC commissioned a public open space assessment known as the PPG17. Many private allotment sites were captured within this exercise but there may be others that were not identified.
- 2.3 The Open Space Supplementary Planning Document provides standards which are used by KBC when responding to planning applications of ten or more dwellings. As a result of new housing developments, additional allotment provision will be found in Kettering and Desborough.
- 2.4 Allotments sites vary in size from those with a few plots to 50 or more plots which come in different shapes and sizes catering for the beginner to the more experienced allotment gardener. The most common plot sizes are half plots (125 sq metres) and full plots (250 sq metres). More detailed information about plot sizes will be available at the meeting after research has been conducted.
- 2.5 In respect of KBC sites, allotments are very popular and there is a waiting list for many allotment sites. The waiting lists are managed by the allotment operator who provides KBC with information on request. In order to ensure the most up to date information, research is currently being carried out with this report supplemented by a presentation detailing:-
- The number of plots in the borough
 - The size of each plot; and
 - The number of people on the waiting list for each allotment in the borough

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	A6 TOWNS FORUM	Item 8	Page 2 of 3
-----------	-----------------------	-----------	----------------

- 2.6 A community allotment site, the Green Patch is located adjacent to Margaret Road allotments and provides many services and activities for a wide range of the public. The 2.5 acre site is leased and managed by Northamptonshire Groundwork. Further details may be found on the council website.
- 2.7 Research has shown that contact with green spaces and the natural environment promotes better physical and mental health, and also improves self-esteem. More specifically, studies have shown that working on an allotment garden may promote an active life-style in general and contribute to healthy aging. Van de Berg et al (2010) found increased levels of physical activity within allotment users of all ages and improved physical and mental wellbeing for older users. The provision of allotments, in particular community allotments, also gives scope for education around the origins of healthy, natural food with families in the Borough.
- 2.8 Allotments are a great resource and asset for physical health and mental well being. Their provision and benefits cannot be over estimated and can have a significant bearing on health and well being indicators and outcomes for many organisations.
- 2.9 The National Allotment Association provides good and practical advice for allotment associations and gardeners. There is a direct link to their website from the Council website, but again, for ease the website address is www.nsalg.org.uk.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 In respect of sites owned by KBC, a named officer is provided to allotment associations and Parish Councils to assist with any issues or information sharing. This has worked very well, it provides community ownership to local people, allotment committees and Parish Councils and assists the long term sustainability and provision of KBC allotments.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 KBC does not directly operate its allotment sites; the policy is to lease the sites to appropriate allotment associations or Parish Councils for a ten year period. The operators then collect the rents and manage the allotment sites.

5. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Close contact is maintained with allotment operators and together, funding has been identified to improve allotment sites. The most recent improvements relate to access at Brachers Fields in Rothwell, extensions to Desborough

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	A6 TOWNS FORUM	Item 8	Page 3 of 3
-----------	-----------------------	-----------	----------------

Allotments and Northfield Avenue Allotments and addition of security fencing at Scott Road Allotments. S106 money was used to extend allotments in Barton Seagrave. The funding has been secured from various areas e.g. the Council's Small Capital Works Scheme, the Council's Small Grants Scheme and County Councillor Empowerment Funding.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no additional human resource implications in respect of this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no additional legal implications in respect of this report

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The A6 Towns Forum notes the information detailed in this report

Contact Officer: Shirley Plenderleith x 5696
Carole Stephenson x 4289