

## **Sidley House Boundary Report – October 2023**

### **1. Introduction**

The main objective of this report is to present from the Bexhill on Sea Town Council with important details regarding the allotment boundary updates. Its aim is to assist the council in making well-informed choices related to the distribution and supervision of allotment plots. The report focuses on the current state of fences, gates hedges, trees, and littering, within the allotment boundary, offering a comprehensive overview.

### **2. Fences:**

- The council conducted a survey that resulted in quotes from multiple local fencing companies, surpassing this year's budget. It is crucial to resolve this issue promptly, especially with the imminent concerns of break-ins, as well as weather-related damage.
- Recommended actions include replacing all four side fences and gates within the allotment Boundary.

### **3. Hedges:**

- A professional contractor was hired by the council to maintain and enhance the health of the hedgerow, ensuring that it no longer intrudes onto the boundaries of the allotment from neighbouring properties. The hedgerow continues to effectively serve as a natural boundary and is being diligently maintained by the agreed contractor.
- Under the maintainer for this quarter the rest of the hedges will be trimmed
- The existing fence still needs replacing, it is recommended to replace four side fences and install an interior fence facing London Road (subject to planning permission). Additionally, two exterior fences should be placed alongside the hedges to ensure proper demarcation.

### **Before**



### **After**



### **4. Trees:**

- A Tree Surgeon was instructed to remove the top off the 20 feet of Conifer trees in the allotment area, ensuring increased sunlight access.
- The replacement of the fencing is still required, the quotes from local fencing companies exceed the budget allotted for this year.

### **Before Photo**



### **After Photo**



### **5. Gates:**

- The current gate in place requires replacement as it is too low and lacks security measures. It is easily jumpable and does not have locks or padlocks provided by plot holders. Additionally, it has become infested with vermin, including mice, rats, badgers, and foxes.
- To address these concerns, it is recommended to replace the gate with a 6 foot gate that matches the new fence height.
- Furthermore, a secure lock should be installed to prevent unwanted access.

### **6. Litter**

- Currently, there is still approximately 3 to 5 tons of wasted topsoil within the allotment area. There has been a lack of maintenance and proper clearing, leading to the dumping of rubbish by individuals.





- To address this issue, it is recommended to employ diggers to remove all topsoil. So that the fencing can be installed. A skip or waste company should also be hired to remove all rubbish from the site
- A local pest controller has put down traps to address the infestation of rats and mice.

## **7. Conclusion:**

In summary, the boundary of the allotment area at Sidley House requires extensive repairs and improvements. However, due to budget limitations, fixing these issues is challenging. By prioritising the repair of fences and gates, and addressing litter problems, the council can create a safer and more enjoyable environment for the plot holders.