

# **Sidley House Boundary Report**

## **I. Introduction**

### **Introduction:**

This report has been created to provide information about the allotment boundary for the Town Council. The purpose of this report is to help the council make informed decisions about the allocation and management of allotment plots. The report covers fences, hedges, trees, and gates within the allotment boundary and provides an overview of their current conditions.

### **2. Fences:**

- The current fences at the allotment site are approximately 5 feet tall and are in poor condition.
- This deterioration is mainly due to improper maintenance by previous contractors, vegetation overgrowth, and damage caused by individuals climbing over them and trespassing.
- The fence is also broken in some areas. This has led to animal access, particularly by foxes and badgers, who destroy crops and bring in vermin and dead animals.
- Infestation by rats and mice is also a concern. Consequently, the overgrown hedges along the pathway have limited accessibility and require thinning.
- Additionally, a disabled person who resides in the area has raised concerns about the state of the hedges which is overgrown and he doesn't have access to his home via the path

Recommended actions include replacing three side fences and installing an interior fence that faces London Road (subject to planning permission). Furthermore, two exterior fences should be installed alongside the hedges.

### **3. Hedges:**

- The hedges within the allotment boundary are currently in a poor and overgrown condition. This has resulted in the destruction of the existing fence, which needs replacement.
- To address this issue, it is recommended to replace three 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.

### **4. Trees:**

- The trees within the allotment area are significantly overgrown, with some reaching a height of over 20 feet.
- The lack of maintenance by the RDC has led to a negative impact on crop growth due to sunlight deprivation.
- Moreover, the overgrown trees have contributed to the destruction of the fences, creating openings that facilitate animal intrusion and unauthorized access.

- For safety reasons, four overgrown and overhanging trees on the common land surrounding the plot need to be trimmed back. This will allow for hedge and tree-cutting activities, as well as fence installation, to be carried out.

## **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 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. A skip should also be hired to remove all rubbish from the site.
- Additionally, the services of a local pest controller may be required to address the infestation of rats and mice.

## **7. Conclusion:**

In summary, the allotment boundary at Sidley House is in need of significant repairs and improvements. By addressing the issues with fences, hedges, trees, gates, and litter, the council can ensure a healthier and more secure environment for plot holders.