

Date of Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022

## Welshman's Lane Allotments – Flooding Issues

### 1. Purpose of Report

To consider the required actions to address the flooding issues as Welshman's Lane Allotments.

### 2. Background

In early 2021 the allotments at both Welshman's Lane and Brookfield experienced significant flooding following heavy rains. This is not the first time the sites had experienced flooding and there has been some flooding since.

To understand the reason behind the flooding the Town Council arranged for specialist consultants to carry out assessments at both sites, providing written reports on the recommended course of action.

When members were considering the budget demands for 2022/23 it was agreed that funding for Welshman's Lane repair works would come from Capital Reserves. The Finance Committee recommended to Full Council which was subsequently approved that funding for Welshman's Lane Allotments drainage issues would be reduced to £30,000 from £60,000 with a view to seek support from the local developers in the hope that they would contribute to the required work.

### 3. Considerations

The Clerk has since been in contact with the agent acting on behalf of the consortium of housing developers at the Kingsbourne Estate, which has taken a few months. Following a meeting of the developer the agent has now responded advising that *“With this being a historic issue which pre-dates the development, the consortium are not willing to commit to a contribution at this time”*.

As the developers have refused to contribute towards the costs associated with the required works the Town Council now needs to consider how to progress. Several allotment holders from Welshman's Lane have contacted the office asking when the work will be carried out, as there are a few months in the year where the allotments are flooded and cannot be cultivated.

The documentation for the tender has already been prepared by the consultant and is ready to be advertised (details attached).

### 4. Recommendations

**4.1** That members approve the work to be carried out at Welshman's Lane Allotment site, and for the tender documents to be advertised.

## **5. Financial Implications**

It is unknown the exact cost of the work to be carried out, but it is estimated it will be in the region of £40,000 to £50,000 plus project management costs.

## **6. Equalities Impact**

There would be no direct equality impact as a result of this report

## **7. Personnel Implications**

There would be no personnel implications

## **8. Environmental implications**

Addressing the flooding issues at the allotments will have environmental benefits to the site.

## **9. Consultation**

n/a

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