

Board/Committee:	Community Board
Date of meeting:	Wednesday 8 th September 2021
Title:	Allotment Strategy
Author:	Head of Streetscene
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval for the adoption of the Allotment Strategy and Action Plan for Council provided allotment sites only (note this does not include the privately owned site managed by the Gosport Allotment Holders and Garden Association (GAHGA)).

The overall objective of the strategy is to improve availability and access for residents to meet the current level of demand and ensure adequate resources are available to support and develop the allotment service provision over the coming years.

Recommendation

That the Board approves the Allotment Strategy 2021-2024 and agrees in principle to the delivery of the action plan.

Improvements and funding would be subject to further approval from Board in the future as this would need to be funded either through Capital Schemes or developer contributions.

1.0 Background

1.1 Gosport Borough Council (GBC) has a statutory duty to provide allotments and places a duty upon Local Authorities to provide allotments where demands exist with the only obligation on the Council under statute law is to make land available for the use of allotment gardening and to provide fresh water.

1.2 The Council recognises allotments as an important asset not only providing green corridors in an urban environment such as Gosport, but providing valuable ecosystems for biodiversity and community spaces for residents for social and active recreation along with the benefits of producing food.

The Council has responsibility for nine sites varying in size across the Borough equivalent to 1123 Plots, details of which can be found in Appendix A, Site plot plans.

1.3 Gosport's demand for allotments is evident and is documented in the wait list statistics per site Appendix B, Wait list for each site. The Council is currently meeting this demand by reducing the amount of land tenanted out i.e. reduced the plot from 10 rods (250 m2) to minimum of 5 rods (125 m2)

with consideration given to exceptional circumstances and is in the process of developing an allotment site at Lee On the Solent at Manor Way Open Space.

- 1.4** The management and administration of Allotments is governed by a network of legislation, which provide the framework for the delivery of the Allotment Service Provision.

2.0 Report

- 2.1** The Parks Open Spaces and Countryside Team under the Head of Streetscene manage Allotments, who have considerable knowledge of allotment provision and law and manages the provision of the service along with infrastructural works.

- 2.2** The Council set up an Allotment Stake Holders Working Group (ASHWG) to ensure that they were liaising with the allotment holders in the management of the facilities, see Appendix C, Terms of reference for ASHWG which was revised and agreed at Community Board 16/09/2017.

- 2.3** The Council in conjunction with the ASHWG undertook a survey early 2019, Appendix D, with its tenants with the focus that the Council were drafting an Allotment Strategy and that their view were important in to the delivery of this document. The Council and the GAHGA and have worked together to produce the Strategy that aims to deliver on the outcomes of the survey looking to improve on the current management and administration and to provide opportunities for improvements to the facilities with the main objectives being:-

- To ensure existing provision of allotments meet current trends and demands.
- To maintain and improve the infrastructure facilities and quality of the authorities' sites, ensuing sites are welcoming, safe and accessible.
- To work in partnership with the Gosport Association and ASHWG to ensure good administrative and management processes.
- To highlight the role that allotments play in developing a more sustainable environment encouraging biodiversity and conservation.
- To promote allotments as a benefit for the wider community, realising the opportunity they offer for education, health and well-being and social inclusion.
- To ensure adequate resources are available to support the long term service provision.

The ASHWG recognises the change in Government Legislation reference to ward boundaries and along with the revised Local Plan and therefore we

would recommend the review of the Strategy within three years then five yearly thereafter.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 The strategy provides an action plan to deliver a modern forward looking approach for allotment provision that meets the expectations of the stake holders and safe guard the sites against future development.

It provides an effective management system that is consistent to all tenants with the opportunity to look at alternative ways to deliver a cost effective service for the future should there be a decrease in funding to deliver an effective service /improvement.

Not investing in allotments will lead to further deterioration of the sites, lack of take up and has the potential to lead to anti-social behaviour and have a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of the existing tenant.

4.0 Conclusion

The adoption of the Allotment Strategy indicates that GBC is committed to continue to develop and support its current service delivery, by working in partnership with the ASHWG and the GAHGA to ensure continual improvements to the management and administrative processes and develop management plans for each site to improve infrastructure and facilities, and to secure funding to undertake these.

<p>Financial Services comments:</p>	<p>No immediate financial implications as GBC look to use the Councils Direct Services Organisation for maintenance and minor improvements with the existing budgets.</p> <p>Long term there could be an impact with the development of Management Plans for each of the sites there could be a financial impact currently unknown. Appendix E expenditure to date on improvements.</p> <p>The Council has receipt income currently at £65 K for allotment improvements and would look to be funded through a planned capital program subject to approval at Full Council.</p>
<p>Legal Services comments:</p>	<p>Allotment Law.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity:</p>	<p>Comments incorporated within Strategy from Corporate Policy.</p> <p>Allotments are open and accessible for all.</p>
<p>Climate Change implications:</p>	<p>Comments incorporated within Strategy from Corporate Policy.</p>

Crime and Disorder:	The ASHWG has a representative from the Police and works in liaison and has an established allotment watch group administered by the Police
Service Improvement Plan implications:	To be delivered by Streetscene
Corporate Plan:	The Council's aim through the delivery of this Strategy is to improve the quality of service the tenants receive along with providing greater benefits to providing a greener, safer and sustainable future of the allotment sites for the future tenants and the wider community.
Risk Assessment:	As per 3
Background Papers:	Board Report devolved management Allotment Survey Allotment Strategy
Appendices:	Appendix A Site Plans Appendix B Wait list Appendix C Terms of reference ASHWG Appendix D Allotment Survey Appendix E List of Improvement works to date
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The Council's aim through the delivery of this policy is to improve the quality of everyone's life by providing a greener, safer and sustainable future for the boroughs tree stock in accordance with the Council's Plan on a Page.



GOSPORT
Borough Council

ALLOTMENT STRATEGY

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ALLOTMENT STRATEGY**CONTENTS PAGE**

SUBJECT	PAGE(S)
1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
2.0 PURPOSE OF THIS STRATEGY	5
3.0 BENEFITS OF ALLOTMENT GARDENING	8
4.0 CONSULTATION	10
5.0 LEGISLATION	11
6.0 MANAGEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS IN GOSPORT	15
7.0 OBJECTIVES	18
8.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW	28
9.0 ACTIONS	29
APPENDIX A – ALLOTMENT HOLDERS SURVEY	PDF
APPENDIX B – MAP DETAILING SITE LOCATIONS	31
END NOTES	32

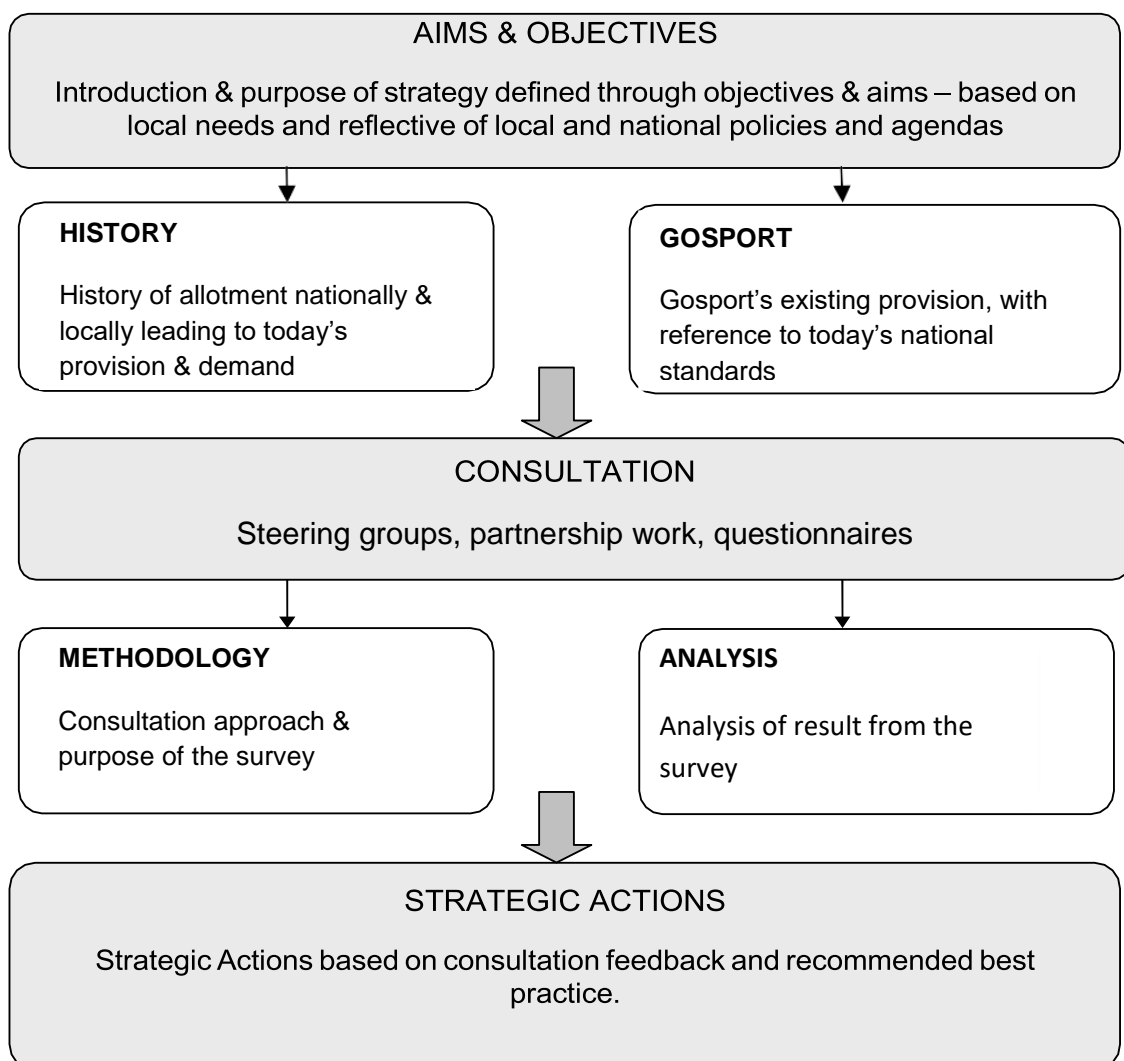
1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Allotment gardens and spaces to grow food are an important part of the green space and leisure provision. They offer people across the UK the opportunity to strengthen their communities, achieve more sustainable lifestyles and maintain a better quality of life.
- 1.2 Growing your own food delivers many benefits, the most recognised of these is the provision of a better diet which in turn helps create an improved level of physical and mental wellbeing. In addition, food grown on allotment gardens can act as a good resource for learning new skills, a better environment for wildlife, and a place for increased social connectivity.
- 1.3 Gosport Borough is home to eleven Council run sites and one Parish site that is managed by Gosport Allotment holders and Gardeners Association. Adopting this strategy incorporating all identified allotment supply provides a more functional and connected Allotment Strategy for the Borough of Gosport.
- 1.4 The production of a strategy for allotments in Gosport comes at a time when interest in the activity had increased and surged with the announcement by Government that allotment gardening was a permitted activity for people during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown: This report is produced with a backdrop of a fast growing waiting list and some sites are already operating at full capacity with no immediate resolution to accommodate the increased demand.
- 1.5 Gosport Borough Council's Streetscene department has produced this strategy with the continued support and discussion from the allotment steering group. The group includes officers from the Streetscene department, Elected Members, Gosport Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association, Democratic Services and local Police Community Support Officers.
- 1.6 The strategy has been produced following consultation with the Allotment Stakeholders Working Group and has been influenced by the results of the allotment survey carried out in 2019. A link to the survey on Survey Monkey was sent via e-mail and was published on the GBC website. Hard copies were available from the town hall, and allotment association run allotment stores. This survey captured the attitude with regards to the existing provision, as well as identifying the allotment community's view towards a range of topics and was circulated to all existing tenants via various platforms.
- 1.7 The overall objective of the strategy is to increase the ability and opportunity for people to cultivate allotment plots in Gosport. The strategy seeks through its targets and initiatives to optimise the use of allotment sites for existing and potential plot holders, identify needs and

ALLOTMENT STRATEGY

meet demand

- 1.8 All recommendations made in the strategy will be considered in terms of the long term sustainability of the service.
- 1.9 The strategy is aimed at providing a vision for how allotments and locally grown food will be catered for in the Borough of Gosport over the next 5 years.
- 1.10 The process that was adopted in order to develop the Allotment Strategy for Gosport is described in the following diagram:



2.0 PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

2.1 The aim of the strategy is to look at delivering a more accessible and sustainable allotment service. To do this it is intended to increase the quality of the provision, by helping existing or new allotment holders to access new resources; and to increase the level of the provision where there is a shortage, looking for opportunities for new plots or to regenerate unavailable plots and maximize opportunities to grow food within the Borough of Gosport.

2.2 Based on the overarching aim 'Delivering a more accessible and sustainable allotment service', there are four strands that can be broken down as follows:

Meeting Demand

Ensure existing provision meets the demand
Five year management plan
Ensure adequate resources

Management

Maintain and improve the infrastructure,
Work in partnership with the Allotment Associations
ensure good management procedures and processes

Monitoring

Evaluation of processes
GBC Procedures and Processes
Service delivery

Promotion

Education
Social Media
Community outreach

2.3 This strategy provides a framework for the next five years to develop and manage allotments in partnership with the Allotment Associations and Allotment Stakeholders Working Group. (The strategic vision is aimed at helping create greater levels of social inclusion for residents as the community engage in this relatively social activity. Alongside this, the movement encourages a healthy way of life for a variety of reasons associated with this activity as well as improving knowledge and awareness of natural processes).

2.4 GBC would look to provide accessible areas to individuals, community groups and for starter plots. As tenants vacate their tenancy where possible 10 rod plots will be split into 5 rod plots as a minimum. In exceptional circumstances a lower plot size may be offered in consultation with Gosport Borough Officer.

2.5 History of Allotments and National Recommendations

Allotment legislation has been altered and adapted over time to meet changing needs and demand. Land allocation, allotment provision, and a service to facilitate provision remain a fundamental right under the Allotments Act 1950ⁱ, where there is demand for the public to continue the tradition and pastime of sustainable self- sufficiency in growing food.

A Historical Context

Historic Tradition of Allotment Gardening

Traditionally formed as areas of land to use for a sustainable supply of self-grown produce for consumption (and survival).

The divides between rich and poor and disproportionate land ownership affected food access. The General Enclosure Act of 1845 was formed which 'required that the Commissioners should make provision for the landless poor in the form of "field gardens" limited to a quarter of an acre to resolve this in what was to become the beginning of allotments as we have today in the UK.' ⁱⁱ

Urban allotments plots increased during the 19th Century as a result of growth of high density housing, with little or no garden area for planting or growing food.

Allotment provision fluctuates for example;

First World War prompted a huge growth in the number of allotments from 600,000 to 1,500,000.

The Second World War again increased the role for allotments and the 'Dig for Victory' campaign saw annual food production from allotments rise to 1,300,000 tonnes per year from around 1,400,000 plots.

As when food shortage threats cease, the need and demand for allotments decline. With land allocation being used for new functions. An increase of people's interest of allotments peaked during Covid-19.

Allotment gardening was a permitted activity during lockdown. Reduced circumstances meant some people had a greater need to grow produce.

Some plots were left unattended that require an increased effort to bring them back in to use.

There was a sharp decline in the provision to around 500,000 in the 1970s. The decline continued during the 1970s but at much slower rate ⁱⁱⁱ

Allotments, The Law and Recommendations

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are no national rules or recommendations with regards to quantity or time limits for meeting waiting list demand. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The most widely acknowledged recommendation is the '1969 Thorpe Report which recommends a minimum provision equivalent to 15 per 1,000 households, but this is not legally binding' |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is estimated that since 1969 some 30% of the then available allotments land has been lost irrevocably. Hence, the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardens (NSALG) recommends that the irreducible minimum provision today should be 20 standard (300 sq.yards) plots per 1,000 households.' ^{iv} |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">•• The Survey of Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms, carried out by the University of Derby on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2006 showed that the national average provision was 7 plots per 1,000 population. |

3.0 BENEFITS OF ALLOTMENT GARDENING

3.1 Allotment gardening is a pursuit that provides a wide range of benefit to local communities and the environment and these can make a positive change to the quality of people's lives. In addition to the advantages of producing good quality, local, low cost, fresh food; gardeners gain the benefits of; healthy exercise, enabled social inclusiveness and reflects the ideals of sustainability and well-being. Allotments are available to all residents of Gosport including the old, young, disabled and people from ethnic communities. The high value low cost benefits are readily available to all.

3.2 Allotments are a unique and valuable aspect of the local area contributing to the quality of Gosport's urban environment. Gardening by the public has increased attention to allotment gardening through provision of greenspace, this not only provides for recreation but offers habitat's for wildlife.

3.3 The provision of allotments by Local Authorities is a statutory duty. Gosport Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide allotments and recognises them as an important asset and will continue to develop and provide them as a valuable contribution to the Borough's health and wellbeing by providing health, social, economic and environmental benefits which contribute to climate change policy and can be summarised as:

- Low cost fresh food production for the family.
- Promotion of healthy affordable diets.
- Healthy recreational activity.
- The opportunity to maintain and develop skills.
- Social contact and as a contribution to community spirit.
- Better partnership working.
- Working towards zero pesticide use.
- Organic growing.

3.4 In addition GBC is one of the partners in the newly formed Gosport Food Partnership (GFP). Allotments fit well with this Partnership's long term objectives as it aims to launch projects to reduce food waste, help residents grow their own food and boost healthy eating.

Working together the Gosport Food Partnership aim's to ensure that everyone in Gosport has the means, knowledge and confidence to get food related support and advice as and when they need it thereby

enabling access to food, healthy living and sustainable food sources.

Its immediate focus is

- Improve food provision for those in food and economic vulnerability.
- Promote sustainable food sources and healthy living.
- Provide and receive support from GFP partners.
- Provide support for smaller food related groups that may be setting up.

3.5 Available land is now at a premium for house building to achieve Government targets, with the trend towards smaller gardens or communal areas, to which Allotments can provide benefits to all.

3.6 The allotment strategy is to build on the excellent work that has already been undertaken, by providing the framework to increase the scope of these benefits, target areas for improvement.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 Gosport Borough Council in consultation with the Allotment Stakeholders Working Group undertook a survey, targeted at the existing allotment tenants which closed 4th April 2019.
- 4.2 Participants were asked 21 questions, to which Gosport Borough Council received 234 responses.
- 4.3 The strength of the strategy is the identification of current trends through gathering of qualitative and quantitative primary data to ascertain from the survey data the reality of today's needs and demands in Gosport.
- 4.4 The questions contained in the allotment survey were aimed at assessing the degree of satisfaction for the existing service; and principal benefits felt from participating in allotment gardening and identifying areas for improvement.

4.2 Key outcomes

- 4.2.1 A highlight of some of headlines from the questionnaire in table 3, a full summary can be found in Appendix A

Table 3

Satisfied or very satisfied with the level of service	74.12%
Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the level of service	10.52%

- 4.2.2 Gosport Borough Council has prepared this document in accordance with the recommendations on developing an allotment strategy and the proposals are in keeping with the examples of best practice given by the Local Government Commission in 'Growing in the Community: a good practice guide for the management of allotments' and with contributions from the Allotment Stakeholders Working Group.

5.0 LEGISLATION

- 5.1 Gosport Borough Council's delivery of its allotment service provision is managed through a complex network of legislation relating to allotment administration, which is governed by statute and case law.
- 5.2 The legal framework has legislation which directly affects allotment administration and the development constraints on this strategy are contained within the following statutes:
- 5.3 The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908
Repealed and consolidated the previous law and deals almost entirely with the provision of allotments and the compensations payable to tenants on the termination of their tenancies
- 5.4 The Land Settlement (Facilities) Act 1919G
Abolished the reference to 'labouring population', which had been a previous requisite, and made Metropolitan Borough Councils allotment authorities for the first time.
- 5.5 The Allotments Act 1922
This gave some measure of security of tenure to the tenants and improved their rights to compensation on termination
- 5.6 The Allotments Act 1925
Required the Town Planning Authorities to give special consideration to allotments when preparing their town planning schemes.
- 5.7 The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1926
Primarily concerned with small holdings.
- 5.8 The Agricultural Land (Utilisation) Act 1931
A measure to relieve unemployment at the time, by encouraging allotments and small holdings.
- 5.9 The Allotments Act 1950
As a consequence of the report of the Allotments Advisory Committee, although not all the recommendations were implemented. In particular, it improved the security of tenure in respect of allotment gardens and amended the law relating to allotment tenancies. It also restricted the obligations of Local Authorities in the matter of allotment provision and increased the amount that may be expended out of the rates on the allotments.
- 5.10 Subsequent legislation, particularly the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 and the Local Government and Planning (Amendment) Act 1981 have had considerable influence on forward planning of allotments.
- 5.11 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) ^v and

associated National Planning Practice Guidance are also relevant. Specifically Section 8 paragraphs 92 – 93 of NPPF 2019.

“92. Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

(a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;

(b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and

(c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.”

“93. To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

(a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;

(b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;

(c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;

(d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and

(e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.”

There are no formal national standards for provision of allotments. In

1969, the Thorpe Report recommended a standard of 0.5 acres per 1,000 population, however, the publication 'Growing in the Community, Good Practice Guide' recommends that a more useful measure is 'plots per household'. In 1993, the average throughout England was 15 plots per 1000 household. In Gosport this is currently 22 per 1000 Household.

- 5.12 Gosport has eleven Council owned allotment sites spread evenly across the Borough totalling an area of approximately 22.5 hectares 0.27 hectares of allotment provision per 1,000 of the population with in Gosport, This is equivalent to approximately 1,050 Plots.
- 5.13 GBC's allotments are present in 8 of the 17 Gosport wards, however due to Government Legislation regarding ward boundaries this subject to change within the next twelve to twenty four month.

Table 1

Wards	Allotment Site within that Ward	Status
Alverstoke	0	
Anglesey	The Rectory	Private
Bridgemary North	Tukes Avenue & Wych Lane	Temporary - Both
Bridgemary South	Rowner	Statutory
Brockhurst	Brockhurst & Middlecroft	Statutory & Statutory
Christchurch	0	
Elson	Elson	Temporary
Forton	0	
Grange	Lee on the Solent	Temporary
Hardway	0	
Lee on Solent East	0	
Lee on Solent West	Lee on the Solent	Temporary
Leesland	Camden	Statutory
Leesland	Leesland Park	Statutory
Peel Common	0	
Privett	0	
Rowner & Holbrook	0	
Town	Park Road	Temporary

- 5.14 GBC continues to strive to meet the demand across the borough. There continues to be an increase in demand and growing interest which was particularly evident during 2020 (Covid-19 pandemic). Currently 629 residents are waiting for plots in Gosport. Applicants are only permitted to apply to go on one wait list for a plot Table 2 shows the wait list for each of the sites;

Table 2

Site	Number of Individuals waiting
Brockhurst	180
Camden	103
Elson	111
Lee on the Solent	152
Middlecroft	118
Leesland Park	167
Park Road	109
Rowner	97
Tukes Avenue	22
Wych Lane	69
Total number of Individuals waiting	629

- 5.15 Gosport Borough Council has acquired land at Lee on Solent, Manor Way open space, with a proposal to create new allotments. The stakeholders welcomed that the proposal would provide additional allotments for Lee on Solent as the waiting list was particularly long.
- 5.16 Gosport Borough Council has prepared this document in accordance with the recommendations on developing an allotment strategy and the proposals are in keeping with the examples of best practice given by the Local Government Commission in 'Growing in the Community: a good practice guide for the management of allotments' and with contributions from the Allotment Stakeholders Working Group.

6.0 MANAGEMENT OF ALLOTMENTS IN GOSPORT

Streetscene undertake the management of GBC's allotments under the Head of Streetscene, along with infrastructural works utilising the annual revenue budget of approximately £36,990.

6.1 Gosport Borough Council has an Allotment Stakeholders Working Group which meets four times a year. The group consists of Council Officers, Elected Members and Gosport Allotment Association Members and two Non- Association members the aims of the group are;

- To facilitate greater understanding of the needs and resources of the council and the allotment holders.
- For the Council and allotment holders and other stakeholders to work to secure improvements to allotment gardening throughout the borough.
- To promote the health and wellbeing of allotments to tenants.

To refer any suggestions and proposals made for submission to the Council's Community Board for further consideration and discussion

6.2 Wardens

Volunteer wardens to be known as site representative will work under GBC's Volunteer Policy. Site representative will be defined in a role description and they will be governed by the Volunteers Agreement.

6.2.1 The volunteers would be required to undertake induction training to include Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Equal Opportunity, Complaints and Grievance Dismissal.

Where possible, site representatives will be allocated a site at which they are a tenant.

A summary of their tasks are:

- To assist GBC in identifying non-cultivation of allotment plots.
-
- Represent GBC on site to meet with prospective new tenants to identify available plot locations (as directed by GBC).
- Attend regular site meetings with the GBC's appointed officer.

- Act as a liaison between current tenants and GBC appointed officer.
- Assist in the management and maintenance of site notice boards.
- Offer advice to new tenants and existing tenants regarding their tenancy as required.

6.2.3 The responsibilities of the Gosport Borough Council are summarised as follows:

- Overall management of sites.
- Liaising with associations, public and residents and Wardens.
- Legal advice and mediation in relation to provision, tenancy agreements and disputes.
- Major infrastructural works to fencing, footways, roadways and buildings including replacement or upgrading.
- Tree works.
- Supply of water, mains replacement, major leaks.
- Rent reviews.

6.2.4 GBC would also be responsible for Promotion, marketing, signage and profiling of the service.

6.3 Governance and Performance

6.3.1 GBC would look to review the existing tenancy agreement with the view to consider the tenancy year for the purpose of invoicing. Improve management processes to address inconsistencies in plot cultivation. Continue to monitor and review statistical information to produce improvement/work program for consideration by elected council members.

6.3.2 Continue to work with community groups throughout the Borough such as Friends Groups, Volunteers, Gosport in Bloom, Give Gain Grow.

6.3.3 GBC are working work with existing community groups to strive to achieve a greener Gosport supporting localised established groups such as GGG, the growing project, Motiv8, to help achieve targets and work in tandem with the GFP & HWB Strategy and climate change.

There is a further aim to reach out to existing and new community groups to promote horticultural interest to support GIB SSEIB & Green flag attainment.

6.4 Climate Change

6.4.1 Consider educational information to be distributed to allotment plot holders to encourage working practices that will have a positive impact on climate change.

6.4.2 Discourage the use of soft wood for the purpose of fencing which is currently used to define boundary's, prevent animal disturbance to plots

6.4.3 Promote educational information regarding the use of sustainable plastic and alternative horticultural practices regarding weed management cultivation and water conservation and composting within the boundaries of the tenants plot.

6.4.4 GBC's long-term aim is to remove skip provision and discourage the cultural practice of bringing "Recyclable materials" to site that eventually require Council intervention and disposal. The Council will take enforcement action through the tenancy agreement as required.

6.5 Management arrangements

6.5.1 The Council will continue to liaise with the Allotment Stakeholder Working Group to review the management of allotments to ensure best practice.

7.0 KEY OBJECTIVES

7.1 To ensure the existing provision of Allotments meet current trends for demand

- a Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide allotments as determined by section 23 of the Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908. The Council will fully recognise its responsibilities under this Act. National Planning Policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) (NPPF) and supported by the national Planning Practice Guidance (nPPG) which is a living document and regularly updated by MHCLG now makes specific reference to allotments, including details on the protection and disposal of sites. Allotment sites are also subject to an additional measure of protection as previously undeveloped land, which has the lowest priority for new development.
- b The Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (adopted 2015) (GBLP) LP36: Allotments <https://www.gosport.gov.uk/article/1292/Local-Plan-2011-2029-Adopted-October-2015>. The Policy seeks to protect existing allotments from inappropriate development (part 1) and to facilitate the promotion of new additional allotments where the opportunities arise.
- c GBC to consider whether temporary sites can become statutory in accordance with current legislation.
- d The Council are currently reviewing the GBLP which will be the subject of public consultation before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent Examination.
- e The current demands for allotments in Gosport is an ever growing one with demand now clearly outstripping available provision, historical data can be found <https://www.gosport.gov.uk/amr> Local Plan 2011-2019 (adopted 2015) GBLP LP36: The Policy seeks to protect existing allotments from inappropriate development (part 1). As such the waiting lists need to be reduced in order to meet the statutory requirement to provide to demand.
- f Provide indicative figures against each site to determine timescales that prospective tenants are held on waiting lists.
- g The previous unmet demand has been mitigated by the development of manor Way Open Space in to an Allotment and rest Garden.
- h Gosport Borough Council needs to have an open minded approach to finding new sites which should in the first instance concentrate on the re-allocation of current open space/leisure land. (nPPG) <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>
- i Private sites may be encouraged to offer up land under lease for the

community. Investigation in to the possibility of use and extending the provision should be actively investigated as an alternative option for sites.

- j The review of allotment provision will need to include an assessment of both current needs and latent demand, which will need to be balanced against the Council's ability to achieve a manageable level of provision where quality can be maintained within available resources.
- k In order to maximise current existing plots the council 10 rod plots will be split into 5 rod plots as a minimum. In exceptional circumstances a lower plot size may be offered in consultation with Gosport Borough Officer.

7.1.1 Protect existing allotment sites. By following all statutory and 'Growing in the Community Good Practice Guide' requirements

1. The Local authority has a statutory responsibility to provide allotments and will continue to monitor current provision and identify any further need if required
2. Investigate feasibility of changing temporary allotment site to statutory sites safeguard the land from future development.
3. Reduction of existing 10 rod plots to a minimum of 5 rods on vacation of tenant where practical.

7.2 To maintain and improve the infrastructure, facilities and quality of allotment sites, ensuring sites are welcoming, safe and accessible.

- a The infrastructure of an allotment site is very important to its tenants, in particular security against theft and vandalism.
- b It is important to establish an agreed quality standard for allotment sites in consultation with the Allotment Associations and aim to achieve and sustain this standard at all times and at all sites. This standard should seek to ensure good access, good security, good facilities, good paths, adequate water provision and prompt attention to neglected plots.
- c An infrastructural survey of allotment sites needs to be carried out to ascertain the levels of current provision at each site and to recommend any improvements that may be necessary to raise the site to the required standard. From this survey a programme of improvements will be prepared.
- d It is important to investigate ways of securing financing to ensure the continual improvement of the allotment service. This will involve exploring new and creative ways of generating additional funding.

- e There are no toilet facilities at any of the allotment sites in the Borough which particularly affects the prospects of encouraging disabled people and school groups. Finding a means of establishing toilet facilities should be a key target for the future and the feasibility of such should be looked into.
- f Site safety, although of key importance, has not presented serious problems with the main issues being break ins to buildings which have been sporadic.
- g Strong sense of community exists on the sites encouraging tenants to 'watch out' for each other and for the site as well as forge good relationships with local neighbours. This form of self-policing develops awareness of potential problems.
- h Gosport Borough Council work closely with the Police Community Support Officers who conduct regular visits to all the sites engaging with plot holders, sharing information and advice to improve security and deter vandalism.
- i The Council will seek to promote best practice in health and safety on all allotment sites. A system will be set up to enable annual site safety inspections to be carried out on all sites. These will be carried out by Gosport Borough Council Officer. The inspection will identify defects that present a safety problem to allotment users and adjacent residents.
- j The Council wish to phase out skip provision and will seek to do this through education of the allotment plot holders in effective waste management during the period of their tenancy and promote the use of compost bins, self-constructed compost heaps and the use of recycled materials.
- k The Council would look to provide educational information regarding the cultural practise of Bonfires to highlight the negative effect these have on the immediate community.

7.2.1 Actions:

- 1 Undertake an infrastructure survey of existing allotment sites covering fencing, security, water, tracks and signage and develop a works programme of improvement for the duration of this strategy.
- 2 Identify expenditure to undertake the improvement plan.
- 3 Produce a routine schedule of inspections
- 4 Review annually and continue to update risk assessments and associated site surveys i.e. water testing for legionella and asbestos on sites.
- 5 GBC to investigate alternative communication platforms and ensure noticeboards are kept up to date with relevant information.
- 6 Continue joint partnership with allotment watch to monitor the effectiveness of community engagement in the prevention of crime; continue to work with local Police and community safety groups along with other voluntary groups in assessing preventative measures to combat crime.
- 7 Produce leaflets and posters for waste management and crime reduction to be distributed to all plot holders.
- 8 Update the GBC's webpages and onsite signage information to reflect the negative impact of bonfires on site to the wider community unless during incidents such as Tomato and Potato blight.

7.3 To work in partnership with the Allotment Associations and ensure good administrative and management processes

- a The Council will ensure the effective management and administration of allotment sites by continuing to develop a strong partnership with the Allotment Associations in the form of quarterly Allotment Stakeholder Working Group meetings which representatives from the Allotment Associations attend.
- b Each site is unique in its geographical location and currently managed and administrated by the Council who work closely with the Allotment Association. There are currently eleven sites in the Borough. Regular site meetings take place between the Wardens and an Officer from Gosport Borough Council on a monthly basis. The Council seeks to reinstate the bi-annual Warden meetings in order to share information between the allotment sites.
- c To ensure that a high quality service is provided administration procedures will continue to be improved. This will include a review of plot letting, waiting list procedures, non-cultivation and termination procedures.

- d The keeping of bees is becoming more popular and in the interests of animal welfare and public health and safety the Council will continue to process applications and approvals to ensure suitability to location with monitoring arrangements applied.
- e The Council wants to ensure that it provides the very best service for tenants, ensuring that its performance remains high when compared with other Local Authorities. In particular, the Council will liaise and compare its service with neighbouring Councils to show its commitment to high quality and standards across Gosport.
- f The Council will review the existing tenancy to reflect the current strategy.

7.3.1 Actions:

- 1 Continue to hold Allotment Stakeholder Working Group meetings to review best practise.
- 2 Schedule regular monthly site meetings with individual Site representative.
- 3 Schedule bi-annual group site rep meetings.
- 4 Under take facilities audit to compare with neighbouring authorities to benchmark the existing service.
- 5 Establish site representatives in accordance with Volunteer Policy.
- 6 Review the tenancy agreement.
- 7 Establish a Bee Keeping Policy.

7.4 To highlight the role that allotments play in developing a more sustainable environment, encouraging biodiversity and conservation in climate change agenda

- a The integration of allotment gardening into local sustainable community development strategies can enhance the benefits of allotments. By growing their own food, allotment gardeners already make a contribution to local food production and the reduction of 'food miles' and this benefit can be enhanced through the distribution of surplus crops within local communities such as working with Gosport Food Partnership as their focus is identified in Paragraph 3.3. The adoption of organic methods provides the further benefit of production that is sustainable from an ecological standpoint. The growing of fresh vegetables, flowers and fruits is a sustainable physical activity and as a consequence this strategy provides a contribution to achieving the objectives contained within GBLP and works towards assisting the council in achieving the climate change agenda targets.

- b Allotments make a positive contribution to the local environment and form an important part of the network of green spaces across Gosport. Allotment plots and their margins, hedges and non-cultivated areas provide valuable habitats for many species of animals, birds and invertebrates. To some degree they also safeguard other flora and fauna, especially given that their access is restricted. There is undoubtedly a greater potential for the better management of the natural features of allotments, creating improved habitats and a richer source of local biodiversity. Even in their choice of crops, allotments gardeners make a contribution to biodiversity. To which the Council is working towards wherever possible the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – The Government have also published its 25 Year Environment Plan (January 2018) which seeks to connect people with the natural environment to improve their health and well being https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf
- c The Council will seek opportunities to improve and sustain the biodiversity of allotment sites by supporting and assisting Allotment Associations with funding bids for biodiversity projects to create nature areas which in turn benefit crops through pollination and natural pest control. The Council would look to monitor the market for any potential developments in crop resilience and seek to promote the use of drought tolerant seeds that could be used by tenants.
- d The Council manages over 180 hectares of green space, maintained by Streetscene through its direct grounds maintenance work force. Over the past five years Gosport has informally begun a process of reducing the use of pesticides associated with landscape management and will endeavour to change mowing regimes with the introduction of sowing wildflower meadows and semi-cultivated urban meadows throughout the borough to increase biodiversity and decreased CO2 emissions.
- e The council will continue the management of grass paths overgrown vegetation and clearance of plots and where appropriate reduce the use of pesticides. GBC aim to maintain green spaces, in accordance with Management Plans.
- f Not all food grown on allotments is organic. Organic gardening practice, which avoids the use of pesticides, artificial fertilisers and peat is also helpful in maximising biodiversity value and preserving indirect negative environmental effects. An increasing number of allotment tenants in Gosport choose to grow their food organically and the Council seeks to encourage this further. The Council will endeavour to provide additional technical advice and assistance to tenants and forge closer links with both local and national organic associations to foster more organic practices. Further information on

this can be found in Natural England's leaflet 'Wildlife on Allotments' ref. NE20.

- g The opportunity to share with others the fruits (and vegetables) of one's labour is an intrinsic part of the culture of allotments. Surplus produce is often given away to neighbours, friends and relatives in a sociable and generous spirit of reciprocity. This is also one of the focuses of the Gosport Food Partnership.
- h Most allotment tenants are committed to recycling materials, self-sufficiency and environmental competence by the very nature of what they do. Allotments are the heart of a living a sustainable lifestyle and support the environment in many ways. The Council will encourage recycling methods and composting initiatives where possible and provide additional guidance on sustainable practices.
- i To promote tool recycling & sharing scheme amongst tenants to assist in aiding to reduce the use of plastic and fuel emissions.

7.4.1 Actions:

- 1 Encourage Allotment Associations and plot holders to aware of the balance between ecological diversity and appearance of allotment sites thus improving the wildlife value of their plots.
- 2 Encourage Allotment Associations to apply for grants to enhance biodiversity of sites.
- 3 Encourage Allotment tenants to follow the Council's own commitment to reduce pesticide use and to make greater use of recycled materials and products, biological and cultural methods of pest control and organic peat free gardening and take heed of any future development in the production of drought resistant crops.
- 4 Promote on-site composting using individual bins. Increase awareness of sustainable practices and publicise the services available from waste management.
- 5 The Council would look to monitor the market for any potential developments in crop resilience and seek to promote the use of drought tolerant seeds that could be used by tenants.
- 6 To promote the tool sharing scheme amongst tenants to assist in aiding to reduce the use of plastic and fuel emissions.

7.5 To promote allotments as a benefit for the wider community, realising the opportunity they offer for education, health and well-being and social inclusion.

- a It has long been recognised that there is something special about

allotment communities. Within the setting of the allotment site, age, gender, race, social status and occupation have little relevance.

- b The Council will continue to seek innovative ways of promoting and advertising allotments, along with the technical information for pest, disease and good cultivation processes. This will be done through the Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent in Bloom & Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent in Schools in Bloom Campaign and by utilising leaflets and posters, ensuring these are displayed for maximum effect, in public places such as libraries, the Tourist Information Centre and community notice boards as well as by developing the allotment pages on the Council's website. The Council's quarterly magazine 'Coastline' could continue to run articles on gardening and allotment related topics.
- c GBC will endeavour to raise awareness of food banks and healthy eating workshops and are committed to promoting the 25 Year Environment Plan objective to help reduce food waste.
- d The Council will carry out a review of allotment site notice boards to determine what on-site information is available and to promote better communication with tenants.
- e Allotments can play a valuable role in environmental education and some sites have plots let to younger plot holders and local schools. The National Curriculum provides scope for pupils to study plant growth, urban land use, composting, recycling, soils, organic gardening and local sustainable development. All of which can be taught effectively outside the classroom at an allotment and in turn develops community links.
- f Subject to budget approval the Council seeks to widen the appeal of allotment sites for vulnerable sections of the community by increasing accessibility. This could include making areas on certain sites that are more physically accessible with wider paths and raised beds.
- g Allotments play an important part in improving people's health. Not only do they offer the opportunity to grow organic produce but they also provide an excellent form of outdoor activity, exercise and relaxation.
- h Allotments can also be effectively used in co-ordination with education, healthy eating, and social inclusion projects.
- i In partnership with GFP, GBC will promote the redirection of surplus produce to local food banks and healthy eating workshops. For example, encourage tenants to donate surplus allotment produce.
- j By the allocating and redistribution of food is in support of the Local government 25 Year Environment Plan objective to help reduce food waste.

7.5.1 Actions:

- 1 Review, update and produce new leaflets and posters.
- 2 Monitor and review the Councils allotments Website pages.
- 3 To ensure the annual participation with Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent in Bloom is upheld and continues to be developed.
- 4 To promote allotment gardening in Gosport as a leisure activity with the.
- 5 Aim to make allotments more inclusive.
- 6 GBC to work with local community groups to look at the feasibility within the parameters of the tenancy agreement to redistribute surplus food.
- 7 To survey existing sites and update existing maps and digitalise where feasible.

7.6 To ensure adequate resources are available to support the long term service provision

- a The general service provision and day to day running of the allotments is good and has worked efficiently for many years. However, the requirement for sufficient revenue in maintaining infrastructure is an area for re-evaluation to ensure the long term sustainability of the sites and uphold the expectations of the tenants.
- b It has been identified that the two main areas that present pressure to budgets is that of perimeter maintenance and the acquisition of additional land and associated costs that are required to facilitate a fully functional site.
- c It may be possible to reduce the budgetary requirements of allotments by increasing rent, as demand currently exceeds supply. However, this can only be achieved through negotiation and mutual agreement.
- d The provision of water is currently paid for by the Council and this is another area that needs to be investigated to look at the feasibility of full or part funding from plot rentals in order to make the provision more self-financing.
- e From time to time there may be opportunities to obtain some external funding through Government or Lottery grants along with health and community related schemes. These should be investigated further and could assist with capital funding of projects.
- f Plot rentals are reviewed on an annual basis.
- g In evaluating service costs it is most important to balance this against the voluntary work of the Associations/Wardens and the leisure, health and community benefits that the allotments provide.
- h Undertake periodic allotment surveys to monitor and improve service

provision

7.6.1 Actions:

- 1 Encourage and facilitate allotment associations/sites to apply for grants for facilities on site.
- 2 Encourage partnership working with external bodies/organisations and other site and allotment groups.
- 3 Ensure sufficient ongoing revenue and capital funding is allocated to ongoing allotment provision.
- 4 Review the Allotment Service Provision to achieve best value through comparison with other authorities within Hampshire.
- 5 Undertake periodic allotment surveys to monitor the allotment service.

8.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

- a The strategy is a live document which will form the basis of Gosport Borough Council's priorities for allotments over the next 5 years. Its targets will be subject to annual monitoring and review, adjusting to suit the changing circumstances and needs that develop over time. The target dates for the actions identified in the strategy will enable an assessment of progress with objectives against those target dates.

- b Over the past few years a great number of improvements have been made to allotments in Gosport. However, there is still potential for their development that will be realised throughout this strategy, particularly in relation to seeking additional provision.

9.0 ACTION PLAN

9.1 Table of Actions

ACTIONS		RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
8.1 To ensure the existing provision of Allotments meet current trends for demand			
1	The Local authority has a statutory responsibility to provide allotments and will continue to monitor current provision and identify any further need if required.		
2	Investigate feasibility of changing temporary allotment sites to statutory sites to safeguard the land from future development		
3	Reduction of existing 10 rod plots to a minimum of 5 rods on vacation of tenant where practical.		
8.2 To maintain and improve the infrastructure facilities and quality of the authorities sites, ensuring sites are welcoming, safe and accessible			
1	Undertake an infrastructure survey of existing allotment sites covering fencing, security, water, tracks and signage and develop a works programme of improvement for the duration of this strategy.		
2	Identify expenditure to undertake the improvement plan.		
3	Produce a routine schedule of inspections		
4	Review annually and continue to update risk assessments and associated site surveys i.e water testing for legionella and asbestos on sites.		
5	Council to investigate alternative communication platforms and ensure noticeboards are kept up to date with relevant information		
6	Continue joint partnership with allotment watch to monitor the effectiveness of community engagement in the prevention of crime, continue to work with local Police and community safety along with other voluntary groups in assessing preventative measures to combat crime.		
7	Produce leaflets and posters for waste management and crime reduction to be distributed to all plot holders.		
8	Update the Councils webpages and onsite signage information to reflect the negative impact of bonfires on site to the wider community unless during incidents such as Tomato and Potato blight.		
8.3 To work in partnership with the Allotment Association and ASWG to ensure good administrative and management processes			
1	Continue to hold Allotment Stakeholder Working Group meetings to review best practise.		
2	Schedule regular monthly site meetings with individual Site representative.		
3	Schedule bi-annual group site rep meetings		
4	Under take facilities audit to compare with neighbouring authorities to benchmark the existing service.		
5	Establish site representatives in accordance with the Volunteer Policy		
6	Review the tenancy agreement		
7	Establish a Bee Keeping Policy		

ALLOTMENT STRATEGY

ACTIONS		RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
8.4 To highlight the role that allotments play in developing a more sustainable environment, encouraging biodiversity and conservation			
1	Encourage Allotment Associations and plot holders to be aware of the balance between ecological diversity and appearance of allotment sites thus improving the wildlife value of their plots.		
2	Encourage Allotment Associations to apply for grants to enhance biodiversity of sites.		
3	Encourage allotment tenants to follow the Council's own commitment to reduce pesticide use and to make greater use of recycled materials and products, biological and cultural methods of pest control and organic peat free gardening.		
4	Promote on-site composting using either communal or individual bins. Increase awareness of sustainable practices and publicise the services available from waste management.		
5	The Council would look to monitor the market for any potential developments in crop resilience and seek to promote the use of drought tolerant seeds that could be used by tenants		
6	To promote the tool sharing scheme amongst tenants to assist in aiding to reduce the use of plastic and fuel emissions.		
8.5 To promote allotments as a benefit for the wider community, realising the opportunity they offer for education, health and well-being and social inclusion			
1	Review, update and produce new leaflet and posters.		
2	Monitor and review the Councils allotments Website pages.		
3	To ensure the annual participation with Gosport & Lee-on-the-Solent in Bloom is upheld and continues to be developed.		
4	To promote allotment gardening in Gosport as a leisure activity with the added benefits of exercise, healthy eating and social contact.		
5	Aim to make allotments more inclusive		
6	GBC to work with local community groups to look at the feasibility within the parameters of the tenancy agreement to redistribute surplus food.		
7	To survey existing sites and update existing maps and digitalise where feasible.		
8.6 To ensure adequate resources are available to support the long term service provision			
1	Encourage and facilitate allotment associations/sites to apply for grants for facilities on site.		
2	Encourage partnership working with external bodies/organisations and other site and allotment groups.		
3	Ensure sufficient ongoing revenue and capital funding is allocated to ongoing allotment provision.		
4	Review the Allotment Service Provision to achieve best value through comparison with other authorities within Hampshire.		
5	Undertake periodic allotment surveys to monitor the allotment service		

APPENDIX B

MAP DETAILING ALLOTMENT SITE LOCATIONS IN GOSPORT



Scale
0 125 250 375 500 625 m

If this map has been transmitted electronically, use the scale bar in preference to the written scale.



GOSPORT
Borough Council
TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET
GOSPORT, HANTS,
PO12 1EB

MAP REFERENCE: SU9901
SCALE: 1:25000
DATE: 04/06/2014

END NOTES

ⁱAllotments Act 1950 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/14/31>

ⁱⁱAllotment Growing: Vegetable, Fruit and Herb gardening <http://www.allotment.org.uk/articles/Allotment-History.php>

ⁱⁱⁱ<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199798/cmselect/cmenvtra/560/56009.htm>

^{iv}<http://www.allotmoreallotments.org.uk/index.htm>

^v(NPPF2019)https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

<https://www.gosport.gov.uk/article/1292/Local-Plan-2011-2029-Adopted-October-2015>.

<https://www.gosport.gov.uk/amr>

(nPPG) <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

WYCH LANE ALLOTMENT SITE



● Pedestrian gate

● Vehicle Access gate

● Waterpoint

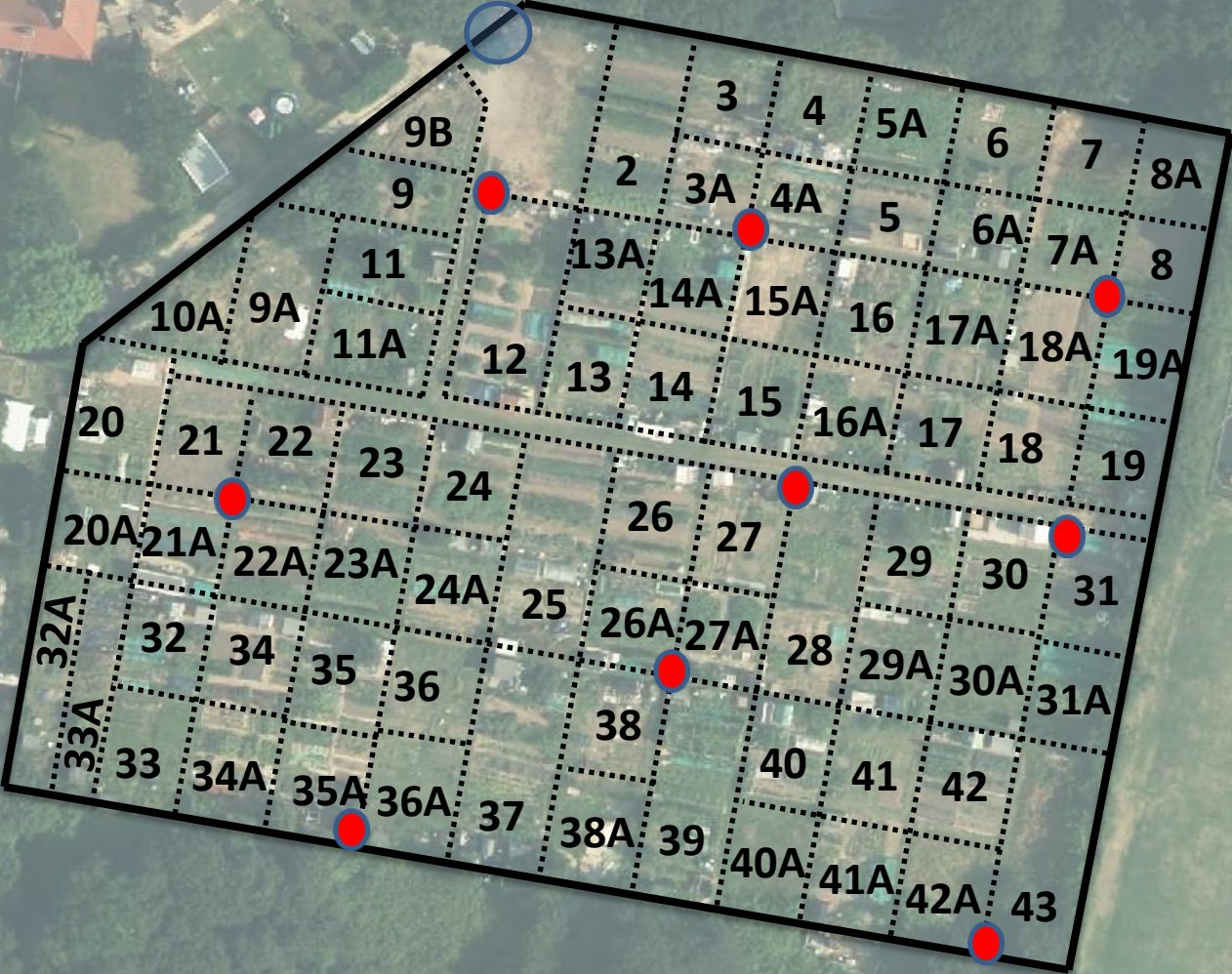


ROWNER ALLOTMENT SITE

- Entrance Gate
- Standpipe locations

ROWNER LANE

GREEN CRESCENT



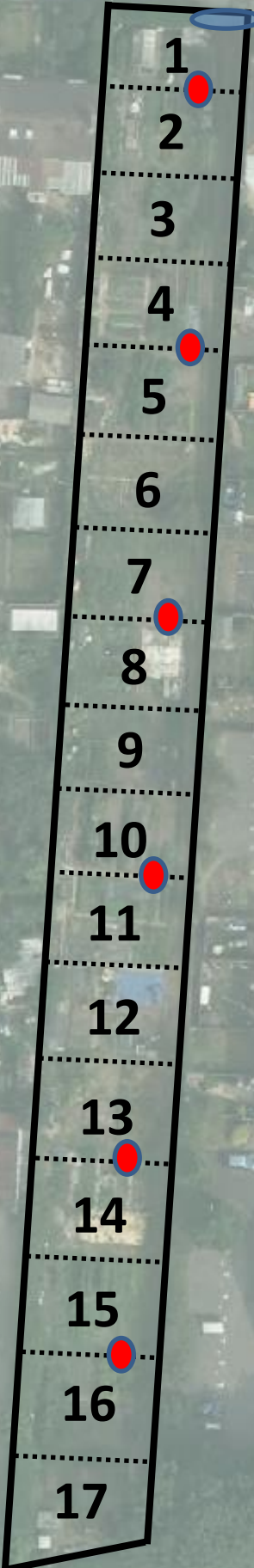
**PARK ROAD
ALLOTMENT SITE**

PARK ROAD

DOLPHIN CRESCENT

LEYLAND CLOSE

SUNBEAM WAY



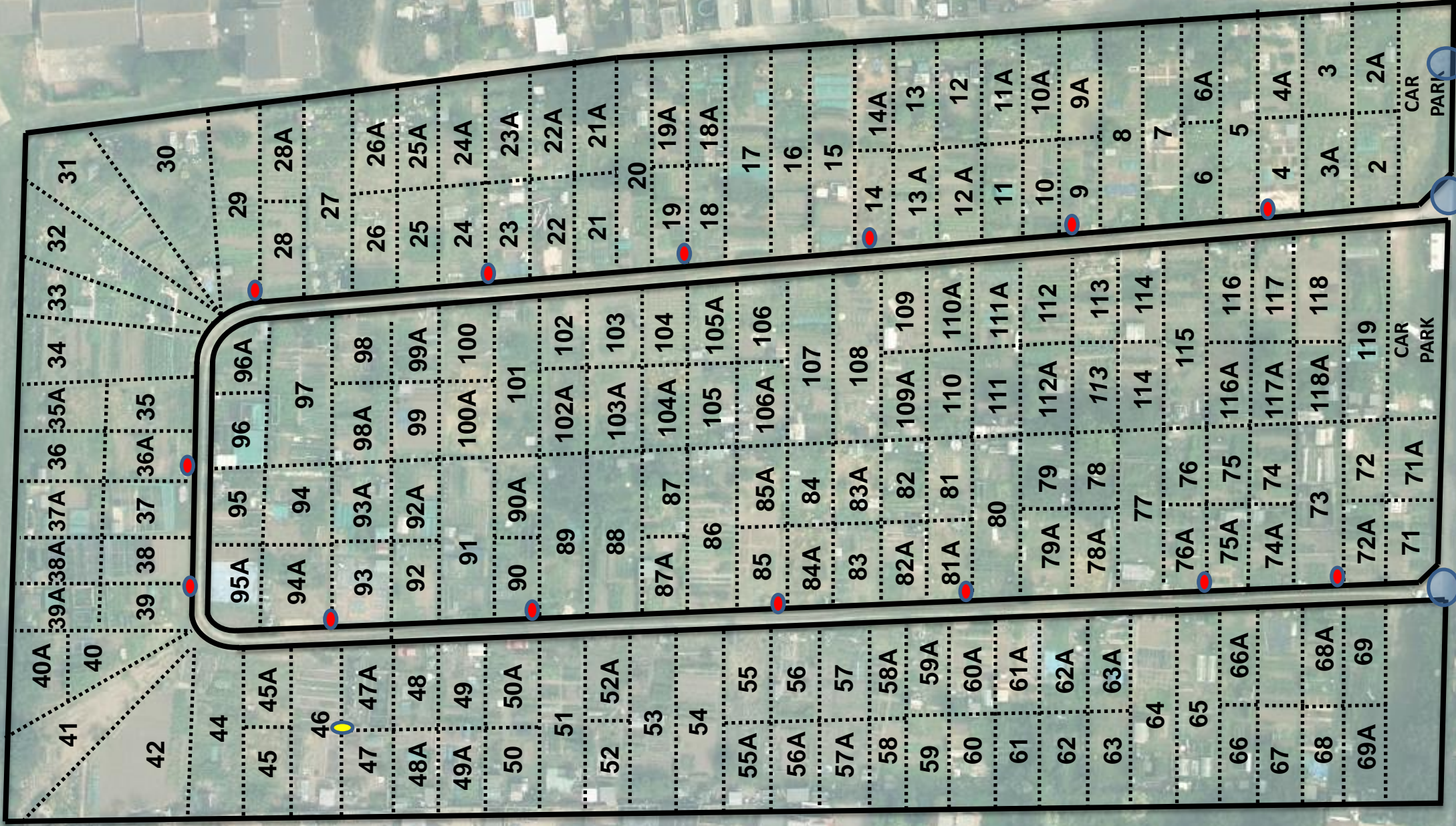
Access point

Water point

MIDDLECROFT ALLOTMENT SITE

PARK ROAD

KINGSTON ROAD



- Key
- Gate
 - Standpipe
 - Unofficial Standpipe

Water point

Gate



CHARK LANE

Water Point



LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT
ALLOTMENT SITE

ELSON ALLOTMENT SITE

Key



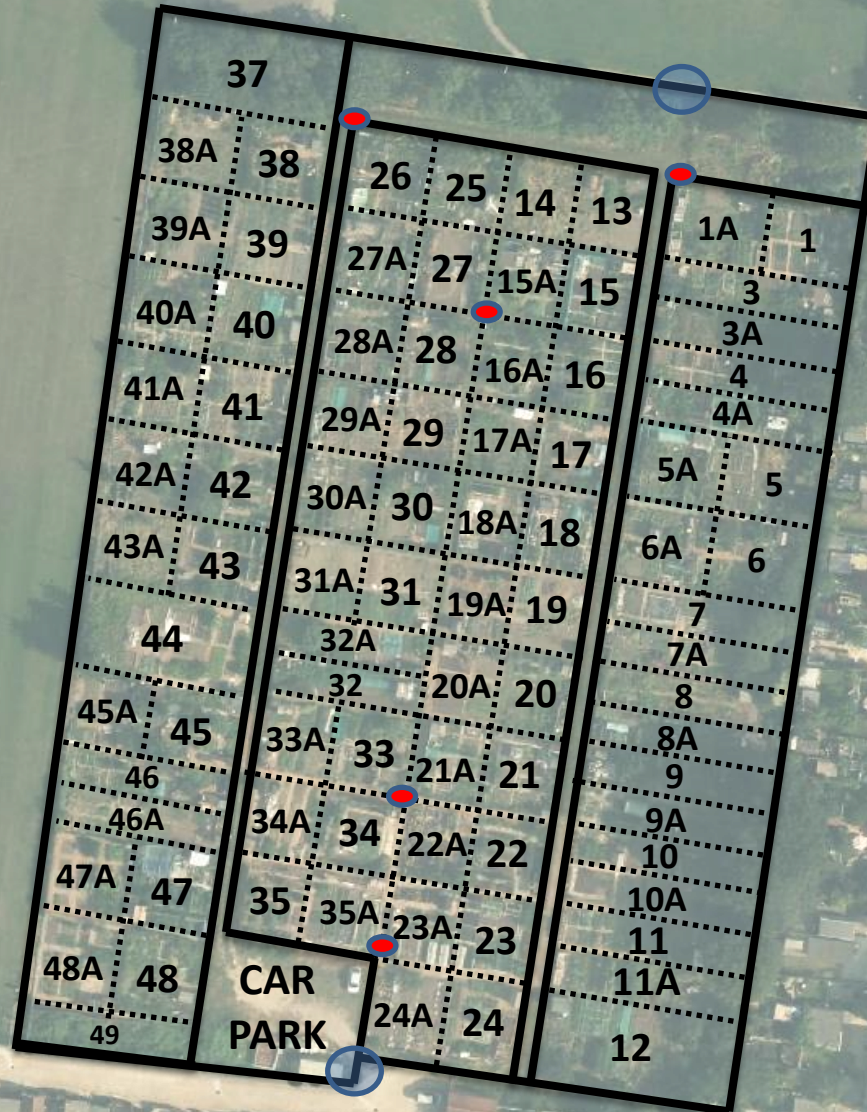
Gate



Standpipe



Unofficial Standpipe



FINDON ROAD

CAMDEN ALLOTMENT SITE



Donnelly Street

Camden Street

St Ann's Cres

Key

-  Pathways
-  Stand Pipe



Appendix B Wait list for Allotments

Site	Number of Individuals waiting
Brockhurst	180
Camden	103
Elson	111
Lee on the Solent	152
Middlecroft	118
Leesland Park	167
Park Road	109
Rowner	97
Tukes Avenue	22
Wych Lane	69
Total number of Individuals waiting	629

Appendix C

Terms of Reference for the Allotment Stake Holders Working Group dated 6th September 2017

Composition of the Group

The Group should comprise of elected members of Gosport Borough Council, the Stakeholders Group are yet to reach an agreement as to whether this should be three elected members or four.

These members will be nominated at the Adjourned meeting of the Council.

The Group should also comprise three Allotment Association Members, to be nominated by the Association at their Annual meeting.

The Group should also comprise three non-allotment association plot holders. It is felt the best way to advertise for these members of the Group are via the notice boards on each site.

That Site Wardens be able to attend the meetings and address the Group on specific agenda items.

The Group does not need to have representation from the Diocese as their allotment does not fall under the remit of Gosport Borough Council.

Aims and Objectives of the Group

- To facilitate greater understanding of the needs and resources of the Council and the Allotment Holders; and
- For the Council and Allotment Holders and other Stakeholders to work together to secure improvements to allotment gardening throughout the Borough
- To promote the health and wellbeing benefits of allotments to residents.
- To refer any suggestion and proposals made for submission to the Council's Community Board for further consideration and decision.

Terms of reference of the Group

To identify issues relating to allotment provision.

To identify and make suggestions for addressing areas for improvement of allotments in the Borough.

To highlight priorities for improvements to allotments in the Borough.

The consideration of a medium to long-term improvement plan for allotments in the Borough.

Standing items on the agenda:

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman should be elected at the first meeting of each municipal year.

Appendix 3

Q20: Do you think there are any areas in which the allotment service could be improved? Open-Ended Response

1	A warden that takes the time to engage with lottie holders. Not feel that any comments will go nowhere.
2	Extra Skips Keeping vacant plots tidy
3	1. Make the boundary fence more intruder proof and improve the surface of the allotment trackway at the Middlecroft Site - these two improvements alone would go a long way to making tenants happier
4	Management of non cultivation Visibility of the warden
5	Only on the points made above
6	No
7	Faster enforcement of untended plots
8	Greater access to rubbish skips
9	When we first started we thought there would be a point of contact for questions but there wasn't. We also thought there would be regular meetings to attend but again there wasn't. I think these would be a good idea. Water pressure on hot days is an issue so anything that can be done to improve this would be welcome. Ensure all keys are collected back when plots are given up as I am sure the thefts are often an inside job. CCTV would make me feel safer when I was at the plot alone.
10	Water supply, more taps, improved water pressure
11	Yes: Communication re skips, manure deliveries, theft etc via email, More and larger skips, Improved security, Improved locks on gates - the padlock on first access road is ALWAYS jamming, More deliveries of manure, Better mowing and cutting back of vegetation on allotment roads, Request allotment-holders not to block the roadway with cars - if they choose not to retain parking space on their plot shouldn't they park in the road outside? Thank you
12	More generous access to water. Better maintenance of fences.
13	fencing and security. what I would like to see is one or two plots dedicated to wildlife, with a few trees, a pond, shelter for frogs and hedgehogs, bat boxes etc. This way we can encourage predators to reduce the number of pests in an organic way. Most of us try and grow organic. It is difficult to provide wildlife areas to encourage the right predators when at the same time we are to keep our plots tidy and free from weeds.... I would be very happy to have my plot next to a designated wildlife area, even if it meant being next to an overgrown area
14	don't know if there is a current warden as there is no name or contact details on the gate
15	skips - 2 per year is not enough, once a quarter would be better. however I do accept that a lot of site tenants do abuse the service
16	More provision of skips

17	have a warden who is contactable. have better water pressure. put stones on driveable path and cut back hedges and trees regularly. give more than a few days notice for skips. have an organised delivery of manure for allotment site (chargeable)
18	Having a toilet
19	Manure, wood chippings/mulch would be nice instead of going to land fill or waste, a newsletter or site website with a post option for holders or non holders to give advice and help and possibly a tool lending library or hire for the cost of fuel or wear and tear.
20	Be stricter on those that are not cultivating plots. When taking on a new plot give greater help with clearing/stimming/rubbish disposal from previous tenant.
21	Yes, more frequent skips throughout the year, we are lucky to have 2 per year if that, nwwer able to use the facility when they do arrive.
22	No
23	Stricter unattended plots management
24	More taps. More skips. Services (e.g. utensil sharpening) available other times than Sunday mornings
25	I think my warden may have changed !
26	Better provision of skips for uncompostable waste
27	Watering is difficult at the busiest times, as the water pressure is low, so there is competition.
28	Installing portaloos
29	I think a dedicated warden would make a difference I also think skips are required more regularly and the fencing desperately needs replacing between the allotment and the houses that back on to them. Also there is a fox issue which is becoming a problem due to the amount of fox mess etc. The grass is always way overgrown.
30	More skips please. Higher fences along the sides similar to by the gates .
31	Better track around the allotment Clearance of track area close to road side to allow more parking
32	Faster action, better communication, better waste management.
33	Control of unattended plots could be improved
34	Only those stated plus possibly allowing local youth charities to be allowed a plot to help encourage a healthy lifestyle, growing own produce and enjoying the difference in quality and taste of produce once self grown in a natural way.
35	the turnover of vacant plots could be accelerated and perhaps give notice to neighbours of vacant plots if the neighbours would like to take over

36	<p>Although there is a general sense of 'make do and mend' among the community, I do feel that more effort could be made by many to decrease use of plastics and/or non-organic products. I have already mentioned that I often pick up plastic waste that has got blown about the site and, as I usually walk or cycle, I have to carry matter home and dispose of it in my own domestic bin. Although I try to grow crops organically, I know that this is not necessarily true of other growers and I think some more information/education on environmental issues would be of benefit.</p> <p>Communications are usually pinned to the gate which means that notices often get damaged by the weather and become illegible. Maybe a notice board inside the gate would be better?</p>
37	<p>The garage on the site seems not to be for community use, surely it would make a great base to start an Allotment Society; the Lee Horticultural Society does not represent the allotments and is an aging and struggling organisation. Watering is always an issue but the heated exchange I experienced from another allotment holder has seriously reduced my enjoyment of the plot. Put timers on the taps or provide more taps to share opportunities evenly. The fencing at Lee is a disgrace. I would love to see more community involvement, produce sharing and support for local groups</p>
38	<p>Need to understand the modern way people grow stuff its not just about perfectly weeded immaculate plots. For example I use green manure this means letting some high nitrogen weeds actually grow then at the right time of year dig the weeds in to feed the ground for the next crop this is the most organic way to grow also I don't turn over the soil often because this destroys the worms when I 1st took it over I dug the whole plot deep there was not 1 single worm this means soil is terrible but now after 2 years of me using these techniques the worms are returning unfortunately most don't even know about this modern way of growing and just see an unkept plot when it is actually the best way for the whole planet eventually all will do it this way when they realize its better for the planet. So I think the council officer should actually know about gardening and all the techniques that can be used to grow then I wouldn't get a letter about uncultivated ground when its actually intensional to get better crops and protect the environment. I have worked in local council and a 3rd generation gardener with over 20 years experience yet am told by someone with no gardening experience that my plot is to weedy when it is actually on purpose to try and bring the terrible soil I inherited back to life. So yes the point is council workers should actually know about the things they are put in charge of not just the admin office side of things.</p>
39	<p>Help for non drivers to dispose of non vegetable waste. Perhaps reintroduce legal bonfires after dusk doing away with need for skip increase size.</p>
40	<p>I think that the wardens jobs should be reviewed at least every 2 year to encourage the tenants</p>
41	<p>Nothing seems to be done to improve services. I have been an allotment holder for 37 years and still have problems with water pressure, main track/path, theft, lock on gates, fencing</p>

42	Brockhurst site now does not have a site warden. Faster repair of water tapes. Control of tree cutting. Disposal of plastics on the site as there is lots of it in the ground. Faster allocation of vacant plots.
43	Delivery of manure
44	No
45	the council could rent out machinery eg rotivators and screamers to help out as these things are expensive and people cannot afford them, or they have a tendency to be stolen
46	Security
47	NOT AT THE RENT WE PAY
48	Security fencing ie higher fences, more viability of warden
49	No
50	Pest control (foxes)
51	More frequent skips and bark
52	Sort out and repair the fences, gates, locks, get rid of the old garage at the main entrance. Notice boards are a disgrace, some falling down, Stop the woodchips being strewn all over the place and get rid of all the rubbish thrown along the outside of the old garage and the parking area. We need more access to skips, one per year is a joke and when a skip is delivered the warden should be beside it to ensure that no one brings in rubbish from home to fill it up which is what happens now, if you are not on the site when it is delivered then you don't get to use it. We aren't on site as no one ever knows when they will deliver unless you are part of the "inner circle".
53	I'd like to see community groups being able to use the plots perhaps. Maybe a certain section could be put aside for this? I'd like to see more encouragement for people to share and work together. It is time consuming and there must be lots of older people out there who would like to help out on an allotment but might not have the strength/energy to take on a whole plot. Develop a mentor service from ex-allotment holders who can advise new allotment holders - give support and encouragement etc This could help to reduce social isolation and improve health and wellbeing? Could young people be involved in a scheme? Training on basic gardening? I believe a group is looking into some of these ideas? I've seen it on the Community Lottery page but I'd be really interested to hear more about their ideas.
54	improve quality of access tracks / carpark improve the pathways, some are so narrow they are inaccessible, particularly with a wheelbarrow
55	faster turnaround of uncultivated or vacant plots.
56	It would be good to have a social area on the site.
57	Bonfires must be banned due to environmental and health impact on neighbors/other plot holders. Minimum of four larger skips per year. On-site managed composting facility. New tenants should be provided with allotments in reasonable condition and the cost to be met by the incoming tenant - joining fee/deposit. At the same time tenants ending their tenancy should leave the plot in a reasonable condition or forfeit their deposit. Hence cost is met by combination of leaver and joiner. Improved site security - gates and fences. Possibly a toilet and hand washing on-site?

58	Definitely more rubbish skips are required. Also fencing and overhanging trees are a nuisance. A new locking system should also be considered at the entrance to the allotments, as they are always failing.
59	More skips for waste
60	More skips Maintenance of metre main thoroughfare Less interference from Streetscene
61	Try to work out how to better maintain pathways
62	Better security, more water taps.
63	better management for empty plots so that new tenants are not getting a jungle
64	plenty, start listening to your plot holders and improving the site, culling or re housing the foxes they are vermin and destroying plots and crops
65	Shortening time unmaintained plots being re-let. Maybe initial trial period. Quicker repair if broken main gate locks Having more frequent skips in locations for the benefit of all plot holders over such a large area
66	It suits what I am looking for. For what we pay per year and the enjoyment we get from it seems to suit very well.
67	Flooding is a very big problem More water taps and better pressure Frequency of grass cutting Letters to tenants to maintain their pathways, possibly a separate letter to the non cultivation letters currently in use as often their plots are good but not the pathways. Also wood and other materials left on these paths to try to prevent animals from entering their plot which are a health and safety issue.
68	Sharing of resources to help maintain plots. Eg mowers. Delivery of compost manure for allotment
69	Advice for new allotment holders re growing produce. More skips during the year. A delivery of manure, would be happy to contribute.
70	*Provide waste pallets *Re introduce manure delivery *Provide mulch / compost - recycled green waste *Skips are overfilled as too few provided *Double tap heads on water standpipes - reduced pressure is better than waiting sometimes upto 30mins for availability in summer *A designated area/bin for burning safely *Official Notice Board rather than soggy notes on the gate *Publicised contact numbers *Allotment holders who pass away stay within the family but not used
71	She keeps talking us that the side of our allotment needs to be kept clear of things because of a pathway she has to keep maintained. This is totally overgrown and has not been tended to in the 2 years we have been there
72	Availability of skips especially in the spring to remove rubbish non compostible material
73	More skips.
74	More skips always full within hours of arriving
75	All good with us!
76	There do seem to be a number of empty plots, when I assumed there was a waiting list.
77	Keeping in used plots under control
78	Yes.
79	Skip provision. Resolution of unloved weed-bound plots. Maintenance of gates and locks (locks were a particular issue in 2018).

80	Communication from council
81	Better access to plot paths (very uneven & narrow)
82	Yes by having a Fox policy. The animals are too numerous and cause lots of damage. They steal any items left unattended for the shortest of periods and dig up newly planted veg. They break through netting, plastic sheeting and undermine sheds. Some are very sickly and I heard stories that they attack people for food. They do not fear humans and if something is not done about them someone is going to get hurt!
83	Toilets on site would be wonderful! Walking to the allotment means it takes me a while to get to a toilet and with a potty training toddler and having had 2 babies in the last 2 years it can be an issue!
84	Not sure have only had plot a short time
85	Removal of rubbish as I can't drive
86	Overall, I'm happy. Incentivise new plot holders to clear their plots quickly...return their first years rent if they clear their plot in three months...provided that it was bad to start with. ...but terminate their contract if it is not cleared in six. Consider getting contractors to clear some of the really bad plots...Camden 104 for example...it's no fun for anybody to take it in...over the years people have tried but they lose heart within a few weeks. Sort the gate locks out! Encourage a summer BBQ at each of the sites...helps to create a sense of community.
87	Better control of unused plots and more communication of issues and threats to allotments
88	Warden hours on site improved and enforced. Stop arguing with the allotment association and save the money this costs to spend on urgently needed repairs. Get repairs done to gates and fencing, my site is a disgrace in disrepair. Too many ex plot holders and non plot holders come and go as they please with keys. Often leaving with bags full of produce. Also one even has their own gate at the far side but isn't a plot holder. Allotments are used as a shortcut. Remove the eyesore that they tell me is a shop which is never open and isn't only an eyesore, it attracts rubbish being dumped around it with their rubbish they put outside. Stop the people dumping woodchips. they migrate over the "parking" area. Stop people parking on their plots they cause pollution to the plots they pass and their plot as mostly they are old vehicles pushing out noxious fumes as they drive. - Not healthy at all, the biggest culprit for this is the Warden whose vehicle pollutes everyone's lungs as it goes around the site when he bothers to be there. You don't see him but you do smell his vehicle.
89	Less limit on bonfires. More provision of skips. Better maintenance of unallocated plots. Maintenance of trees/bushes along edge of site from adjoining properties (Drs surgery)
90	Apart from the already mentioned issues, nothing else this time but, I will keep an eye for the future and I will inform you about my points of view
91	Tracks empty plots
92	Improve flood alleviation. Reduce fox / badger damage
93	Am quite happy with my plot, suits my needs size wise and time wise
94	A toilet Security cameras

95	Updates on position on waiting list, it's awful not knowing if you're moving closer to the top of the list
96	It's a fantastic service; we feel very lucky to have a plot.
97	More mulch required
98	Shop / warden available A magazine or news letter letting plot holders know what and when to plant , hints and tips etc maybe a chance to share ideas , seedlings etc
99	The waiting list - we were told it would be 7 years before we would get a plot. We took a plot elsewhere, then a year later were told 2 were available. My nephew wasn't allowed to even join the waiting list although some plots are not attended.
100	Only the trees behind plot 71
101	Better access to the water
102	More regular skips to get rid of rubbish
103	Getting containers for rubbish use put on site more often and upkeep of the taps.
104	No
105	Clean the plots that aren't maintained and overgrown as the grass spreads rapidly. Help people clearing the plot when they take over as some plots are in awful state like mine was. When order wood chippings it takes a very long time to deliver and not enough for everyone. It runs out very quickly. When the skip arrives it gets full by midday the same day and unfortunately a lot of people put organic matter in it which can be composted. I hope in future you could deliver more than 1 skip as not enough and warn people not to throw organic matter. And last but not least it's the problem with foxes. Over the summer there are too many foxes on the site. One day I counted 24! There are days I am scared to be on the allotment if there aren't people around as foxes come close and I feel they will attack me. The other issue with them is destroying the harvest which is upsetting.
106	More taps. Better water pressure. Better fences
107	Allow bark chipping to be delivered Allow new members a choice in which allotment to take on
108	More and bigger Skips throughout the year.
109	Don't think so
110	Somehow keep thieves off the site
111	Would be good to have toilets on site
112	Effective management of unused plots.
113	Some kind of notice board that allows you to let people know that you are on your plot. As I and other people have been locked in several times and trying to undo the padlock from inside the gate is very difficult.

114	Yes, by clearing and preparing plots for newcomers. Giving a plot a quick dig-over with a mechanical digger and removing the previous tenants rubbish would help newcomers get a much better start. This is not a complaint but it has taken me almost a year to dig up the wood and rubbish the previous tenants buried on my plot, and I'm still not finished. Then I have to find some way to dispose of it all. My plot was basically a meadow when I got it, even though the council had cut down the weeds (which must have been 2-3 feet high) I was still left with basically a patch of field to dig over by hand. Rant over :)
115	I feel it would be beneficial if possible for the skips to be delivered at the weekend. Myself and my husband both work full time, the skips are usually delivered on a Friday morning and by the time we can get to the allotments the skips are full. This would be them same for most plot holders who have not yet reached retirement. It would be useful for the water to be turned back on slightly earlier in the year for those people who grow from seed in greenhouses.
116	No
117	Water to the site. More taps. Tap on our side of the site! Quicker vacation of unworked plots. Servicing of gate/locks on a more regular basis.
118	Fencing and security, clamp down on poorly maintained allotments users, suggest vehicles are not driven to plots in wet winter conditions if not absolutely necessary as this turns tracks mud pools
119	More diligent and routine visits by the council to sites to ensure proper maintenance by both plot holders, contractors and council workers. To an outsider some plots are unkept and give a poor impression of the site. Marking of plot boundaries is poor and could be improved. Management of sites appears to be lacking - overgrown grass tracks, overhanging brambles, rubbish dumped by perimeter fencing and rarely (if ever) removed, etc.
120	Too many plots not really used - (familys have more than one - and dont use them)
121	No I'm happy with the service provided
122	I failed to get an invoice this year in the post. If I hadn't noticed in time I could have lost my plot.
123	A more proactive management locally
124	Extra skips to remove excess rubbish from site.Many plot owners have no means of getting to council dump. Soil delivered to site to build up height of some flooded plots.
125	Fox Cull, An enthusiastic warden who isnt negative all the time Security measures
126	Yes to allocate unused allotments out quicker to keep down weeds and general mess. Some of the unused allotments are a disgrace.
127	The foxes cause a lot of damage and mess
128	We rarely see the manager.
129	I am happy with what I get.. thank you :-)

130	Get a better warden, one who is interested and turns up regularly. Better control of the foxes there are too many. Better site security. Extend the bonfire season or provide more skips. Two a year is not enough for the size site
131	Not been doing it long enough to have a strong opinion either way
132	More skips Passing areas on paths/access roads Getting allotment holders not to park on access roads. Help to new allotment holders to clear overgrown plots.
133	Recognising that improvements cost money. I think that better parking surfaces and an improved surface to the entrance 'roads' would help plot holders who need to arrive by car. This would also help in deliveries of the skip etc. I think that a managed wild life area (eg 10 yards deep) along the Station Road plot would be a step in the right direction and would be a way of using some of the unused plots. My neighbour and I are doing this on an ad hoc basis already.
134	There are quite a few over grown/looking unattended plots. I think there should be some sort of management of plot owners, to find out if they still want them or not. To give other people a chance of owning one.
135	Until I saw the notice of this survey on the gate I had never heard of the Allotment Holders Association or its shop(s)
136	Warden
137	control of foxes we have a friend who wants an allotment preferably close to ours. not given a choice and was offered one too overgrown to manage and was off putting. There are plots available that are still empty poor management on his behalf
138	some of the foxes
139	There was a time we had a skip once a month (when we paid less rent. Maybe not necessary in the winter as we can have bonfires, but would be appreciated during the summer. Grass paths with their dandelions cause grief especially when they seem to be at the end of the contractors run and sometimes get forgotten. More than twice a year would be appreciated.
140	Please take a firmer line with tenants of neglected plots and those who've spent years collecting piles of 'come-in-handly' junk and rubbish. It would be better if tenants did not bring waste cooked food and waste pet food onto the site to feed foxes. In addition to foxes the food attracts pigeons, crows, rats and mice. There are, of course, risks to health through direct contact with contaminated soil and eating contaminated crops. One example: foxes commonly carry the parasitic roundworm Toxocara, passed on in their waste, which can infect humans. You might like to look up Toxocariasis and consider this as a possible Health & Safety issue. Thanks.
141	Reinstate the warden and better communication with and within the council
142	organise compost deliveries at a good price also bark or chippings for paths and regular skips for rubbish that cannot be burnt which is most of the growing year.
143	Allocation of vacant plots

144	YES: Management and administration 1- Hasten the process of reallocating plots 2- Identify abandoned plots in Sept and serve notices 3- Encourage early written notices to vacate 4- Provide accurate early updates on plot re allocation 5- Clear vacant plots with out undue delay 6- Note cultivation state late Feb 7- Remind Tenants of their tenancy agreements 8- Wardens/Store keepers cannot be expected to serve 2 masters. They are not enforcement officers
145	A community area on the site/ shop
146	Yes biggest job sort out the unused plots. If plots are let out they should be checked within 2 months that they are being used. If no work is being done 1 letter should be sent out giving them notice to prove they are doing work or the plot will be taken back, 1 month from the date of said letter. So within 3 months of someone taking over a plot they would either be working on it or it could be let to someone else. Plots not being used or waiting to be let out should be checked by the council each month and measures taken to strim weeds etc so other plot holders do not have to suffer overgrown sites next to theirs. Water taps. some sites are a long way from taps and there is not enough of them. Some of them do not work. often there is 2 taps but only 1 works. Please check all taps are working ok (not just dribbling out) and look into putting a few more in.
147	Have skips more often Remove tyres Fence the badgers off Cut grass and vacant plots
148	Plot clearing
149	Less interference from Allotment Association
150	Ensuring that plots are given to new gardeners asap Ensuring plots are cultivated
151	regular cutting of paths too many new members giving up their plots after a year Be more relaxed on areas of non-cultivation as I do rotate a fallow patch. Leave overgrown areas on the plot for wildlife
152	The council should take more responsibility for abandoned and neglected plots, preventing them for getting so over grown they become a daunting challenge for any prospective new tenant. Re designate some of the paths between plots as main walkways and maintain them to enable all plots to be more accessible. Point in question I was surrounded by abandoned plots last summer, I spent valuable time cutting paths to keep access to my plot accessible
153	More on site involvement from the council and the Warden needs to have more of a presence on a more regular basis, I have only seen him 3 or 4 times since I took the plot last April.
154	Previous allotment tenants to clear their rubbish before leaving the plot
155	A closer more in depth monitoring of uncultivated and neglected plots with action being taken against the offenders more quickly and thoroughly. Other than that I am happy with the service provided and the subscriptions I pay. Thankyou
156	urge police to allow report of vandalism/theft by e-mail, with an automatic response that provides a crime report number - enabling reporting to insurance companies. contact by 'phone is impossible.
157	Sorting out unlet plots Sorting out plots not cultivated.

158	If a plot holder wanted a larger plot they have to give up existing plot which they may have put a considerable amount of effort and money into, could this be more flexible?
159	Not at the moment
160	A regular reliable source / supplier able to deliver large loads of horse manure would be nice. I for one would be happy to pay / contribute towards the cost for this service.
161	Not sure at present
162	More taps
163	I've heard of some sites in other parts of the country that have communal greenhouse / poly tunnel space available. I'd find this useful to get things started.
164	higher the fences to keep non-allotment people out
165	Provision of smaller starter allotments so inexperienced new allotment holders can learn. A course for new to gardening allotment holders to understand what is required and necessary. The proper maintenance of the main roads into the allotments/carparks. Proper maintenance of the whole allotment site
166	we need a dedicated management system in place so when we need to report or need advice there's some one there to talk to not tell us that they are not at their desk and not pass on messages
167	A more joined up plan as to the running the allotment site. Reletting plots, maintaining empty plots, enforcing the rules of agreement to renting an allotment, especially the 2/3 cultivated rule.
168	Bindweed to not be brought onto the site via woodchippings (I am currently in need of woodchip but am cautious about transferring bindweed root with it). Flytipped items need to be removed from the areas that aren't managed plots (by the fence/gates).
169	More skips needed. A permanent green bin for compost. Sometimes the locks are a bit stiff.
170	get a warden who cares about the site and is often on site. Currently it is difficult to contact as never there. Havent seen him for months
171	- Maintenance of the roads (holes)
172	An allotment newsletter for our allotment users at Middlecroft to outline events, shop offers, security advice, etc. we are lucky enough to have access to a car and we take our non-compostable waste to the recycling centre but others can't so when the skip arrives it is full within 2 hours and gets overloaded. we have 3 compost heaps but the ship seems to fill up with green waste. Therefore another skip in the year or a communal compost heap where allotment users could tip there green waste and then anyone could have access to it to use when it's rotted. The parking areas could be laid with chippings and marked so that cars park can park respectfully for other users.
173	Email/phone contact with the council rather than scruffy notices on equally scruffy boards and gates
174	No.
175	site security and a better water feed better path's

176	Those clearly not cultivating plots should be forced to surrender plots asap/ Warden should be visible/ seen to 'patrol' the site. Perhaps a committee of plot holders might help the Warden. Some form of 'community' focus - eg a 'swaps table' for plants/seeds/tools. Support for new tenants!
177	Warden should be re assessed every 3-4 years.
178	More skips
179	Allocate vacant plots quicker. carry out repairs of taps quicker.
180	Non-cultivated plots left far too long without any action against the holders. People dumping veg matter that should be composted into the skips. Should be for rubbish only. Car park could be levelled.
181	Closer water taps. More frequent skips.
182	Empower the warden, rather than having to refer everything to the Town Hall for action.
183	Only those that have already been mentioned, plus all plastic should be banned as there is bits of plastic in the soil everywhere one digs.
184	Paths, Locks, Fences
185	Toilets on site? Management of fox population
186	An online newsletter/advice forum for allotment holders. The option of smaller plots for busy people! Investment in more water standpipes.

Appendix 1

Q 15 Overall, what are the top three issues on your allotment site? Open-Ended Response

Answered: 207 Skipped: 27

1	Paths, skips. Bark taking up parking spaces.
2	Overgrown unlet plots More removal of waste car access tracks
3	1. The poor security of the boundary fencing 2. Fox deprecation 3. Produce theft, shed burglaries
4	Water access - need to connect 2 hoses - lack of water pressure when more than 1 person using taps on site. Bind Weed Rubbish disposal (non compostable)
5	Non cultivation Management of above No visibility of warden
6	1. car parking 2. toilets 3. access road state in the wet
7	future of shed inherited from previous occupant. Drainage on half the plot Bindweed
8	1 - overgrown untended plots; lack of enforcement
9	Access to skips
10	Foxes, theft of produce and seedlings, more water taps needed.
11	Theft skips water
12	Theft Inadequate provision of large skips Poor maintenance of roadway in summer - overgrown
13	1. Contending with a neighbouring plots that are not being maintained. 2. Having to wait for a water tap to become available in the Summer season. 3. The state of the perimeter fences.
14	theft lack of wildlife areas pests
15	easy to climb fences, no barbed wire on fences just on one side.
16	Can't think of any
17	damage by foxes , fencing , overgrown empty plots
18	Lack of skip provision for removal of rubbish Padlock seizing up on gate Vandalism especially in school holidays
19	no water pressure, seemingly abandoned plots, overhanging trees and hedges and muddy paths
20	Rubbish Disposal, Security and rats
21	Pot holes require filling People feeding foxes Some plots unused
22	poor access with a car for carrying heavy equipment, narrow access with and without a car and water supply (tap usage and pressure) during the summer
23	The next door although occupied has not been dug or grown on for the 2 years since we took on our plot so have a big problem with weed seeds coming on to ours. Also lock is difficult to open on one of the gates.

24	Never get to use skips (2)as i dont know when they are arriving Theft of produce and tools Path maintenance
25	Non applicable
26	Overgrown unattended plots Vandellism
27	Water. Skips. Paths
28	Getting a non cultivation letter,when other plots looked worse than ours and the photos taken were parts my husband had worked on.
29	Disposal of plant waste that cannot be composted
30	Water points long distance to run hose Paths/tracks very rutty and overgrown Derelict plots need managing to stop weeds spreading so fast.
31	Water pressure, lack of recycling facilities, green waste going into skips which then go into landfill.
32	Drainage, Tracks Lack of toilets
33	Grass on the pathways always way overgrown and rubbish that's thrown over from the houses that back on to the allotments. Also there appears to be a massive fox problem at the moment so the amount of fox poo is ridiculous.
34	The fencing along the side of allotment by my plot 26 is too low allowing easy access for vandals and thieves. The skip is too small ...for those of us not able to get there on the Friday morning have no chance of putting stuff in it. Cars digging up the track in wet weather.
35	weeds encroaching from car park and path weeds that are hard to get rid of
36	Car parking, particularly during summer months. Grass cutting around the perimeter Poor track around the allotment
37	Waste management, trees from residents gardens affecting my plot, people nextto me infringing on my plot.
38	Weed spreading from untended plots
39	1. Pathways between plots are narrow, uneven and often overgrown making it hard or even impossible for those with disabilities. 2. Lack of or poor fencing on plots at main accesses. 3. Many plots going unused or over grown
40	The lock to the gate is very difficult to open and close, there appears to be a knack to it that I don't have.
41	the track access could do with flattening out to allow access for lower cars
42	1. I don't think DOGS should be allowed in at all. Even if their mess is noticed, it can never be properly cleared up so is a health risk, and not all dog owners care about cleaning up anyway. They could also trample on someone's crops. 2. ONE PERSON IN PARTICULAR is regularly seen not even securing the gate with the bar, let alone locking it. I've regularly come in to an open gate - a free for all for anyone who wants free pickings, and our plot is right by the gate. 3. There is still no deterrent to 'TRAVELLERS' occupying the grass the other side of the fence again, as they did last summer. We were informed that bollards or equivalent were going to be put up once they left. Again, this is literally the other side of the fence from our allotment.

43	Use of plastics by other holders - which then gets blown about and I often end up disposing of it myself. Gates and locks can sometimes be very difficult to open. My plot is very small and rather shady, limiting what I can grow. It is on the border so trees on adjoining land contribute to the problem, as does the rather heavy, clay soil.
44	Lack of community ambition Plots not be tended Fencing is pointless and looks terrible.
45	Because of busy work schedules I don't spend as much time down the allotment and it seems the click group that are down there all the time help themselves to stuff from my allotment because they think I'm not really that committed but I do what I can to feed my family cheaply and healthily with the limited free time I have yes its not always weeded properly with time I have available but I get good food grown that my family would suffer without this is the whole point of councils making allotment's available for people like me that live in a flat with no garden and limited money trying to feed are selves. then I just get looked down on by the people that have a garden at home but also have allotment and lots of free time. to them it's a hobby which is lovely for them but to me its essential to survive I hate going down allotment to just be judged by snob's.
46	Lack of waste disposal (glass etc) is a problem
47	unlet plots
48	Overhanging trees, paths/tracks to plot big ruts, foxes running al over plots and digging up plants, urinating and defecating plots
49	one of the water tapes near plot 110 is still not working after being reported many times last year. Too many trees being cut down. It takes far too long to allocate a vacant plot.
50	none as I haven't really started yet
51	It would be handy to have manure delivered. Nothing else is really an issue
52	No real issues
53	Access to plots
54	over grown empty plots, not enough skips to get rid of rubbish
55	Inlet plots could do with being trimmed more often. Security is not good, need cctv or a regular visit by police.
56	toilets or lack of(ladies) rubbish (SKIP) OVER GROWN UNLET PLTS
57	Vandalism, lack of caretaker, not enough skips through out year
58	Weeds
59	Foxes fouling. There are up to 20 foxes live on our allotment. There is a danger of contamination of green produce with fox faeces which contain worms
60	Weeds, Foxes, Badgers
61	Foxes posing a danger to my young child they have no fear of humans on this site and often see them being hand fed at the gates. lack of council maintenance to the site, unavailability of the warden, havent seen him since we took on the plot can never fin him when he is needed assumong it is still the same man.

62	I'm still quite new so it's hard to say. Everyone seems friendly and they all seem to enjoy growing and sharing tips. I'm not sure if there are any 'issues' really. There are some disused sites and it would be nice to see them being used - I'd like to see community groups using some of the space
63	access on narrow uneven paths, low water pressure, persistent bindweed
64	Need better water supply as one tap in use dribbles out rest. Fencing in park to low easy to get over. Rules.
65	animals digging holes, digging newly planted beds and damaging plants. Being watched and monitored by others. Thoughtlessness of others when using water in the summer, some using hoses every day, not refilling tank etc.
66	Lack of skips and general composting facilities. Choking pollution from bonfires often in contravention of rules. Breakdown of stand-pipe taps and tendency of the site to become waterlogged.
67	Availability of skip space for waste, as still working, by the time you can get to site, skip is full Lack of community feel
68	Foxes Up keep of inlet plots
69	Weeds, Slugs, Foxes
70	Vandalism, maintenance of paths, access to water
71	only 2 skips a year
72	Foxes, Boundry Fences, Theft from plots
73	Repair of gate locks Length of time neighbouring plots unused Location and frequency of skips
74	I am not sure I have any issues, but keeping the badgers and foxes under control could be called an issue.
75	not enough water supplies,frequency and quality of grass cutting,flooding which prevents access to allotments
76	Perimeter fencing in poor state. Also the vegetation and weeds outside of the perimeter. Water pressure on communist tap. Availability to get bulk compost delivered.
77	People breaking into sheds, causing damage,etc Untidy overgrown plots An extra skip a year would be good
78	Lack of parking, manure delivery stopped & main gate lock maintenance (difficult to open/close if not oiled regularly)
79	Drainage Waste disposal Borders
80	Car parking Neighbours weeds Skip availability
81	skips flooding crows
82	As there is a school opposite the allotment site the visibility to enter or leave the main road is significantly hindered and at times unsafe.
83	Weeds bugs rubbish
84	Fox and rat infestation
85	Waste disposal Access to manure
86	getting rid of waste in skips digging every season unable to have fire in summer

	months
87	Fences and youngsters getting on to the site just to cause damage.
88	Apparent lack of action for adjacent poorly maintained/unloved plots. Provision of skip(s) is inadequate. Maintenance of entrance gates and locks.
89	The rubbish from the previous owner not been collected Lack of communication from the council regarding the above issue Theft and vandalism
90	1.Lack of water pressure (only 1 feed) 2.Narrow access on paths to some plots 3.Over hanging trees on outside of site
91	Weeds, water and waste
92	Removal of rubbish
93	No where to get rid of weeds grass rubbish etc. Not enough water points. Paths
94	Overgrown unlet plots. Absentee tenants with overgrown plots, Skips getting filled to overflowing with compostable matter or burnable wood....we should dispose of these ourselves...leaving space for real rubbish.
95	Theft of produce, parking and people leaving gate unlocked
96	Lack of availability of the warden in a crisis - others have to do his job for him. Foxes being allowed to breed freely and then destroy crops / plots. This site has far too many mangy foxes and people feeding them to which the warden turns a blind eye.
97	Inability to have bonfires when required Maintenance of unallocated plots Provision of skips
98	Poor drainage due to heavy soils; Padlock often breaks; Damages to crops caused by foxes;
99	-Difficulty in transporting compost, etc to and from site (no vehicle access, or parking, due to location). -Weeds along pavement boundary fence. -Not really an issue but watering in summer needs some planning for shared downpipes.
100	Neighbouring plots left uncultivated so weeds blow across Holes in the track especially bad in spring Unsightly vacant plots
101	Flooding, Wildlife (foxes,) waste left from previous tenant for me to dispose of
102	I'm quite happy with my plot and access to it
103	Vandalism Overgrown allotments Footpaths between allotments being fenced off
104	Boundary line shrubs have been cut away/removed leaving site very exposed. Bindweed / couch grass Neglected plots
105	Skips being delivered in the week when full time workers are not around. Water pressure very low.
106	No issues
107	No running water, waste collection, perimeter fencing
108	No information about the shop ... never see it open
109	Grass paths, padlock on the side gate and slugs/snails
110	Rubbish being dumped behind plot 71. Paths running either side of the trees never been cut.

111	Lovely people always very helpful, great place to spend time with the kids, enjoy all the vegetables
112	Getting rid of waste.
113	Allotment holders should be allowed to use 50% of their plot for a flower garden, this would benefit wildlife and people living in flats or houses with small courtyards. People discarding non-biodegradable material in bushes. Badgers.
114	Lack of control regarding allotments not maintained nearby causing weeds to multiply.
115	Lack of skip No shop Wait time To get an allotment!
116	Too many foxes coming while I am there. Foxes damaging the harvest. People stealing from my production.
117	Lack of taps. Lack of tap water pressure. Fence maintenance
118	Waste left behind by previous plotheolders Getting manure to the plot
119	Too many foxes Not enough back chippings Unmanaged roadways
120	Unused plots Maintaining paths between plots Time of skip deliveries
121	No manure, no bark, theft
122	Could have a couple more tap points for water. Wood chip 'help your self points' Parking area in the site maybe
123	Theft Vandalism Access to water in height of summer
124	Locks very stiff on gate
125	Concern of vandalism and theft. Skips full within hours of delivery.
126	Vandalism theft, damage.
127	Water pressure Drainage Uneven pathways
128	1: Rubbish left over from previous tenants including wood, carpets and plastic sheeting. 2: Security of the shed I inherited - it's practically falling down and although I have one to replace it, I will have to somehow dispose of the old one. 3: Difficulty in getting manure and compost to the site. Other sites in Fareham have manure deliveries, it would be great if Gosport could do the same.
129	Water pressure if a couple of taps are being used. Theft of minor items ie one random plant (big plants) Getting rid of large amounts of rubbish
130	No toilet
131	Vandalism/break ins Need more taps Fast cars up and down paths
132	Poor fencing, vehicle damage to allotment tracks, theft and break ins, overgrown poorly maintained plots, constant problems with gate locks
133	Overgrown plots and tracks. Lack of water pressure. Dumped rubbish (flytipping, etc.)
134	State of Soil, Cost, Vandalism.
135	Disturbance from foxes Members of the public throwing over left over food for foxes etc Weeds
136	Water pressure, number of taps. No spare lock if it breaks so restricted access. Warden that doesn't police the unused plots and free them up for people.

137	Vandalism theft
138	Drainage, Parking, amount of plots not being cultivated.
139	Foxes being allowed to destroy our hard work and crops as far too many on the site. People being allowed to feed them daily with a dog bowl, they wait inside the gates to be fed at least twice per day. Lack of warden availability and authority..
140	Weeds Allotment next to ours a disgrace wish we could use it Lack of skips for rubbish
141	Cant get water very well when lots of people are using it .foxes.
142	Some plots are neglected for too long before action is taken.
143	Drainage in the winter and parking in the summer
144	Neighbours plots Access to skips
145	Foxes, lack of interest by the warden, the number of non plot & Ex plot holders with acces to the site to steal produce
146	Weeds, slugs and black fungus on apple tree
147	Getting it ready to grow vegetables Sorting out the mess left by previous owners and finally deciding what to grow on our site
148	Foxes, access roads, overgrown plots
149	Plot holders having to control neighbouring plots that are overgrown
150	We could do with more skips. They are filled as soon as delivered. Pests. Poisonous caterpillars in tree/bushes
151	Too many foxes People using roadways when wet 2 skips a year is not enough
152	foxes foxes foxes
153	Paths Badgers Lack of regular Skips
154	Overgrown plots, drainage, pests
155	Overgrown, rubbish strewn plots; security; flooding.
156	Hedges and trees Frequency of skip availability/no notice when they are due. Boundary fencing and rubbish thrown over them
157	the many unworked plots vandalism involvement of town hall officials with no idea of what is needed to keep up an allotment
158	Maintenance of drive ways Overgrown plots Removal of rubbish
159	uncultivated plots/non compliance with tenancy regs/ accumulation of rubbish on plots
160	Plots lying empty for too long
161	the sites not used which are overgrown. This causes weeds to blow onto my site. Sites not used and although there is a waiting list these sites remain unused for years. Lack of the council sorting these problems out.
162	Overgrown vacant allotments Tyres once they arrive they stay Fence the badgers off
163	Outside Fencing Drainage Badgers
164	slugs, weeds and time
165	Plots not being cultivated Plots taking too long for new gardeners More regular

	skips
166	Main tracks and paths are overgrown Gate lock keeps breaking Fly tipping on the site
167	neglected and abandoned plots during the year
168	Theft, dumping of rubbish
169	Too many vacant plots Gates not been locked Maintenance of paths by others
170	Gate Locks Bark/chipping
171	1. My main concern is neighbouring and nearby plots that are badly neglected throughout the year. 2. Other allotment users not shutting or locking gates when leaving site. 3. Would like to see some of the trees lopped and cared for
172	theft of produce vandalism
173	condition of unlet plots. Lack of toilets. Lack of ways to dispose of rubbish.
174	overgrown plots, damage, having to lock the gate every time
175	1,lock 2,not being able to have a bin our end of site 3,gates being left unlocked
176	Unattended plots Not enough skips to cope with refuse Bonfire times in winter its same at 4pm!!
177	None
178	Lack of car parking when taking heavy bags of manure Other allotment holder using a water tap then going home but leaving their hose in place so one else can use the tap The gates being left unlocked
179	Lack of taps. not enough skips provide and the ones that are provided are too small and not available often enough. Un let allotments.
180	No real issues that I've encountered.
181	theft from outside people/not being given assistance when we had a caterpillar invasion
182	Maintenance of paths and roadways. Clearing of unlet sites. Provision of skips positioning on site
183	management of site tenants not locking gates at the end of the day
184	Dumped rubbish Overgrown plots Badgers
185	Littering/ fly-tipping, trespassing/ vandalism, locks
186	A few people refusing to lock the gates at all times and having bonfires when they shouldn't. Not enough skips.
187	1.Foxes 2. Theft 3. lack of maintenance of communal areas
188	1- padlock, inoperative sometimes and every hear 2- wholes on the main road (mainly after rain falls) 3- damage from foxes
189	Fencing hasn't been repaired even though i have alerted street scene. Gate lock is often faulty and difficult to open Parking areas could do with being gravel so it is easier to park and if possible get markings so that people park respectfully
190	State of inner access track Wasted fruit and overgrowth on paths Theft
191	Vacant plots Foxes
192	weeds theft/security water
193	1.Overgrown/unused sites. 2. Poor state of repair of fences. 3. Very poor

	provision of skips - 2 a year is totally inadequate
194	Vacant over grown plots, security, inadequate water supply
195	Encroaching border shrubs and trees Lock doesn't always work easily No Warden
196	Time it takes to allocate a plot to a new applicant, because the plot is then overgrown and its almost half way through the planting season. one of the water taps by plot 110 is not working even though it has been reported on numerous occasions. To much plastic has been allowed into the soil. Too much cutting down of trees and not replacing them.
197	People leaving the gate open and unlocked. One person locks his bike to the gate so we can't close it because he's lost his key. Car park waterlogged with huge holes. Next door plots both sides overgrown so we have to keep their weeds and grass under control.
198	My plot is a long distance from the nearest water-tap, so I need to keep and store a very long hosepipe. A closer tap would be helpful. Also sticky lock on nearest gate.
199	1. Management of uncultivated plots. 2. Management of unlet plots.
200	Fixing water taps that are not working properly, that have been regularly reported to site warden who I believe has reported them to council. In particular one of the taps by plot 110. This has been ongoing for 2 years. The other issue is the time it takes to allocate plots to people. This process can take months which is totally unacceptable as the plot is usually overgrown by the time it is allocated and it's the middle of the summer and half the planting season has gone and the soil is too dried out and hard to dig. Furthermore, there are too many trees, especially fruit trees being cut down, and not being replaced.
201	Unkempt plots. Main path upkeep (deep ruts) Worn locks
202	Unmanaged, overgrown unlet plots Rubbish removal from the site Safety
203	Fences along back alley, foxes/ fox faeces
204	1. Vandalism - usually I'm not affected but this year my locked metal shed doors were kicked in and damaged. 2. I would like to see the council offer smaller plots. Many new starters and working people struggle with 5 rods. I suggest halving this. Unless they are already keen gardeners they don't realize how much work/time is involved. We've seen many give up, which is a big shame. Nowadays people (myself included) are growing fruit instead of space fillers such as potatoes and onions (as we can buy them cheaply and the wireworm in the plots means you cant keep the potatoes in the ground). 3. On plot 52A I have to roll out 50 METRES of hose to my nearest water standing pipe. Any chance of laying down some more pipework/a nearer connection point?

Allotment Plotholder Survey Feedback

Survey Opened 20th December 2018

Survey Closed 4th April 2019

Responses Received: 234

Thank you for taking part in the Plotholder Survey. The results will help shape the strategy for the future of allotments in Gosport.

Total number of respondents 234 out of a possible 807 allotment tenants

Q1 What is the location of your allotment site. The representation of allotment tenants taking part in the survey is as follows

Site	No of Responses
Brockhurst	54
Camden	27
Elson	24
Lee on the Solent	49
Leesland	7
Middlecroft	49
Park Road	4
Rowner	16
Tukes Avenue	1
Wych Lane	2
Rectory	1
Answered	234
Skipped	0

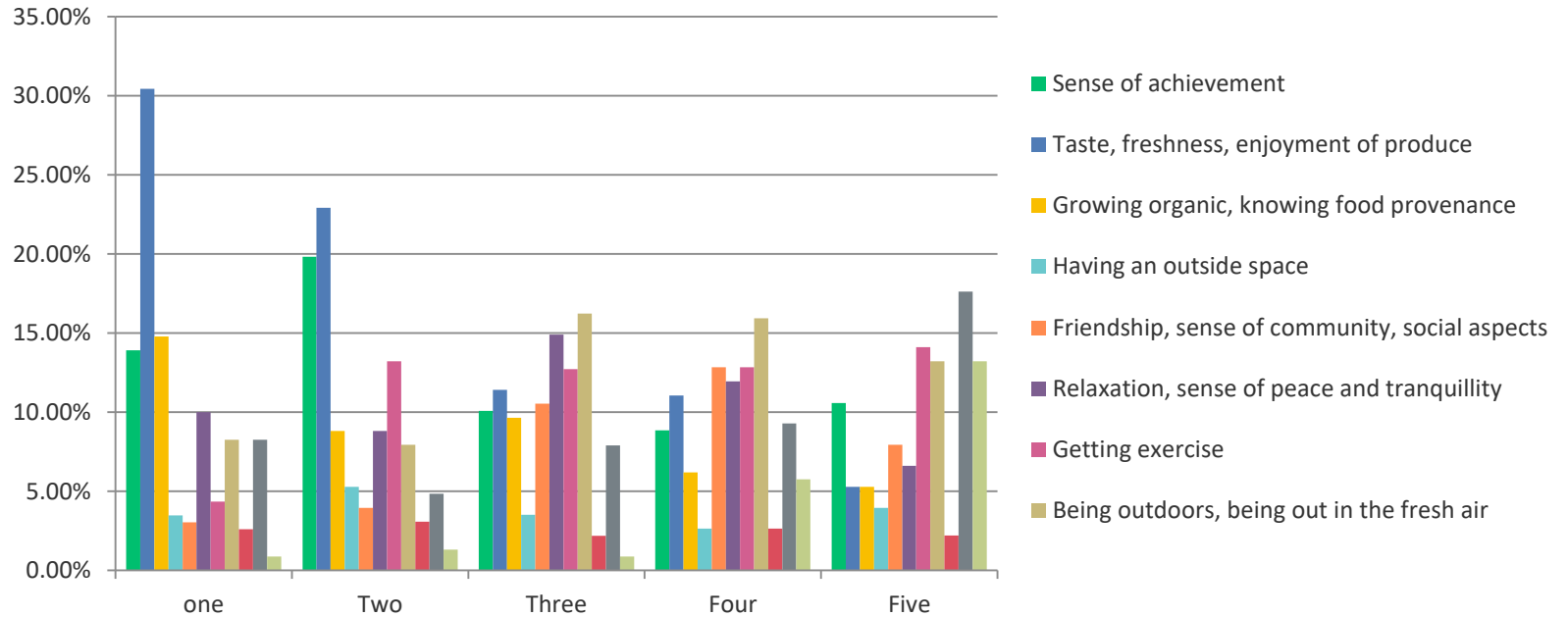
Q2 The winner of the £25 National Garden Gift Voucher is the tenant of plot 3 Lee on Solent. The winner the £10 credit to spend in one of the Gosport Allotment Association Stores is the tenant of plot 41 Elson

Q3 What is the size of your allotment plot/s total rods 54 respondents answered one skipped

Q4 What are the things you enjoy most about having an allotment, please pick from the dropdown menu the top 5 topics listed, in order form 1-5 where 1 is the most important to you

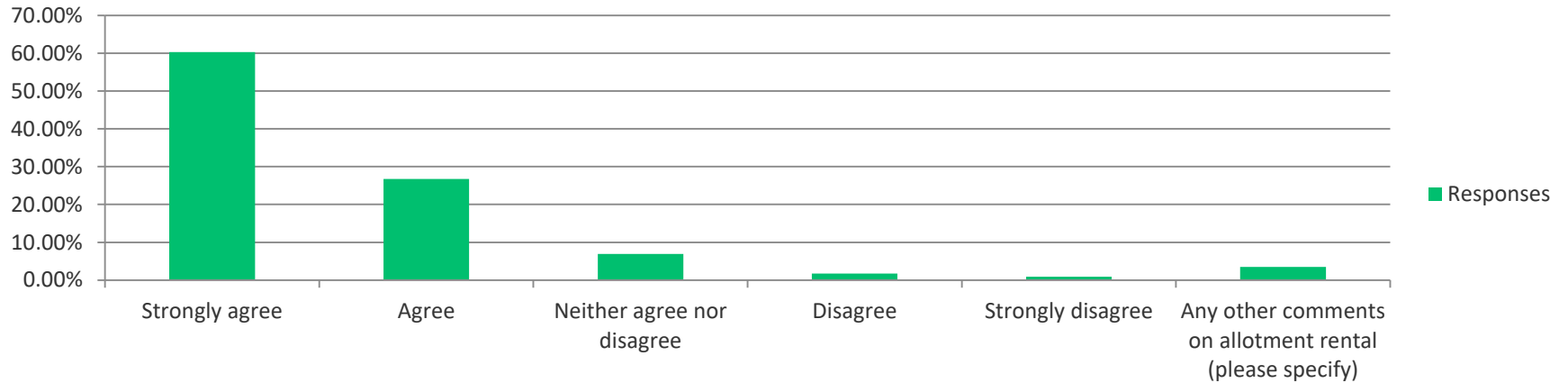
Q4 What are the things you enjoy most about having an allotment, please pick from the dropdown menu the top 5 topics listed, in order from 1-5 where 1 is the most important to you

Answered: 231 Skipped: 3



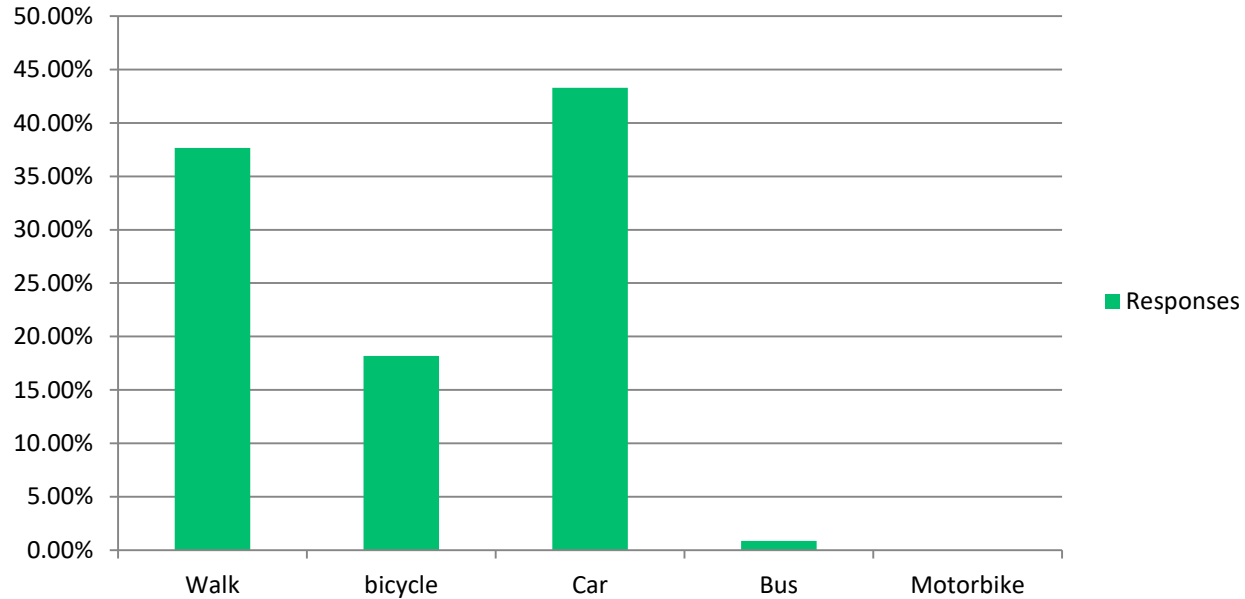
Q5: Do you think having an allotment is good value for money:

Answered: 232 Skipped: 2



Q6: What is your main means of travel to get to your plot

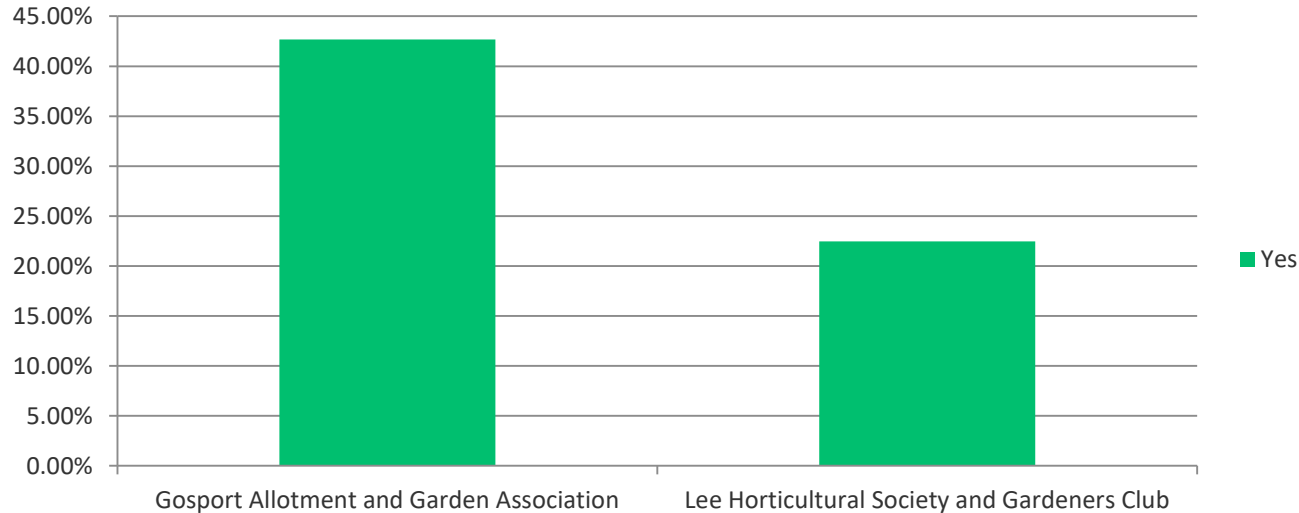
Answered: 231 Skipped: 3



Q7: Are you a member of a gardening club or association

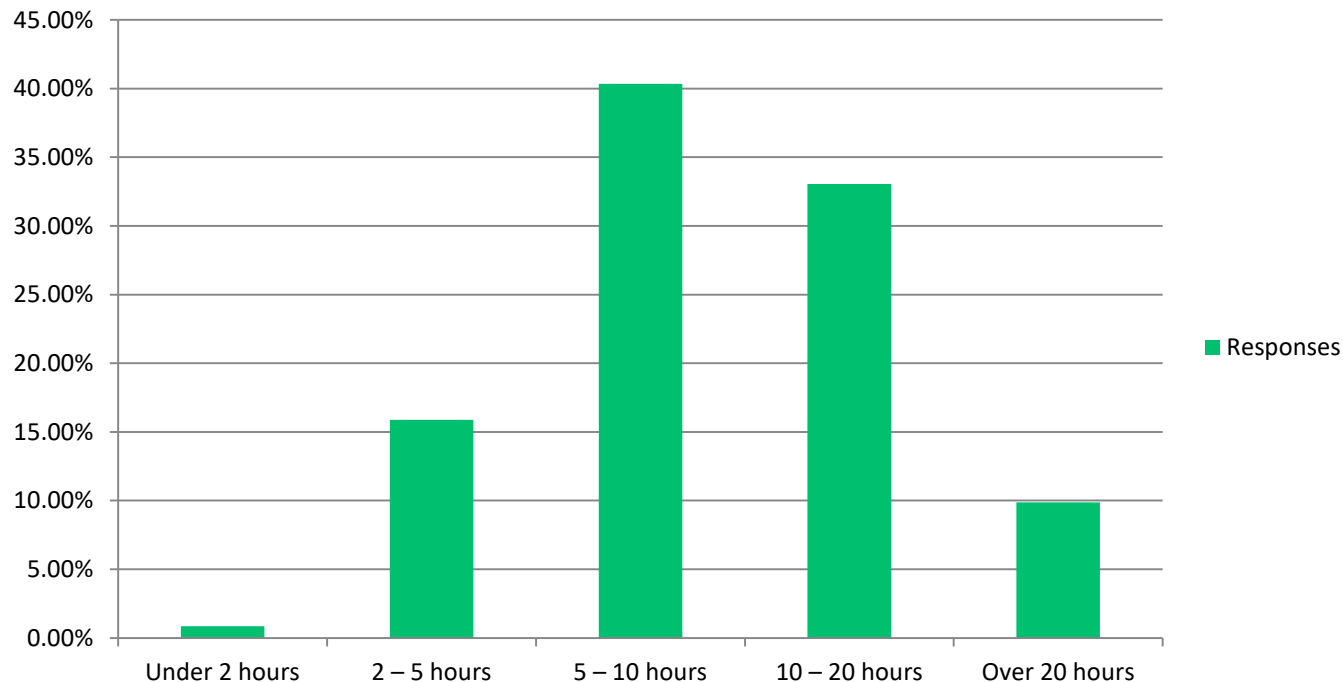
Answered: 234 Skipped: 0

Q7 Are you a member of a gardening club or association



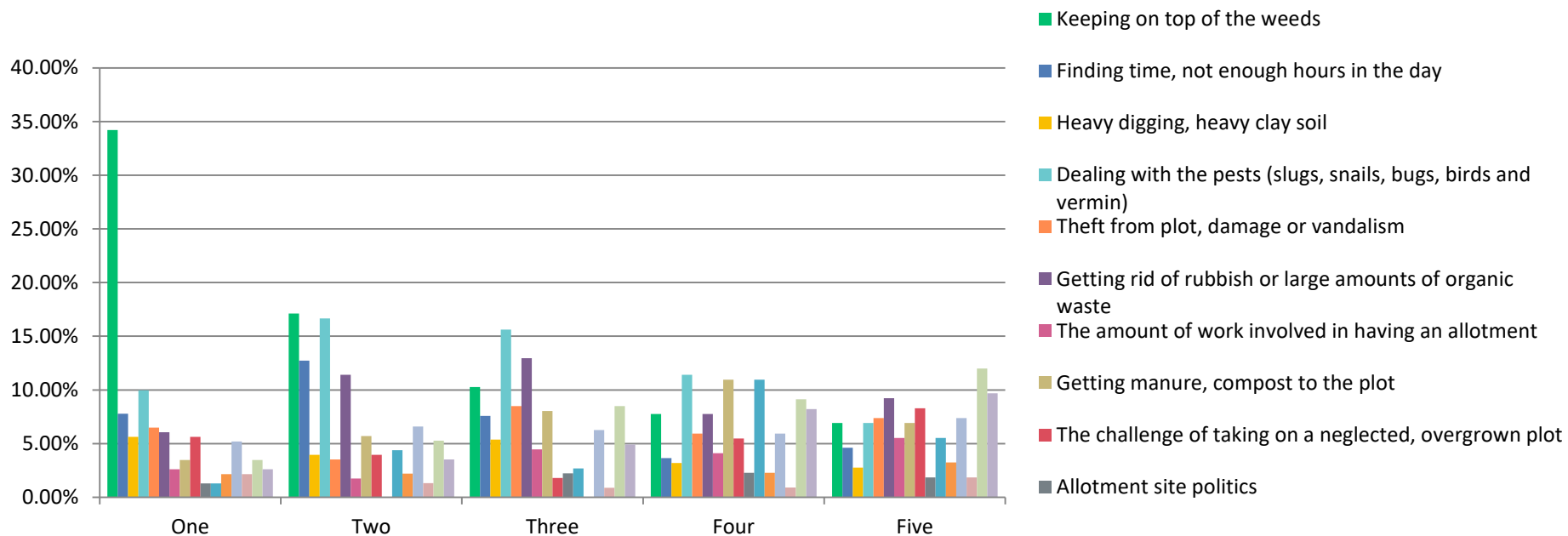
Q8: In the main growing season (April to August) how much time do you spend on your plot each week?

Answered: 233 Skipped: 1



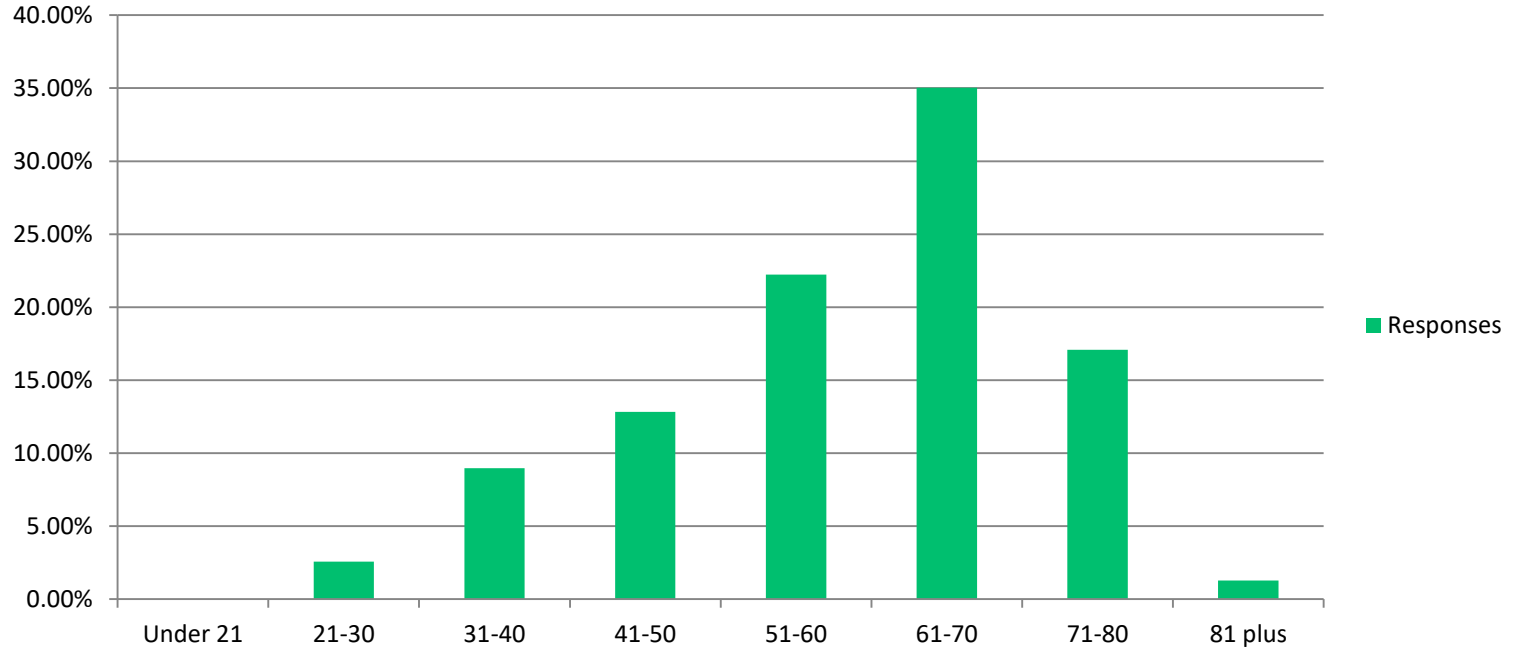
Q9: What do you find most challenging about having an allotment.

Subjects were asked to pick from a dropdown menu the top 5 topics listed, in order form 1-5 where 1 is the most important. Answered: 232 Skipped: 2



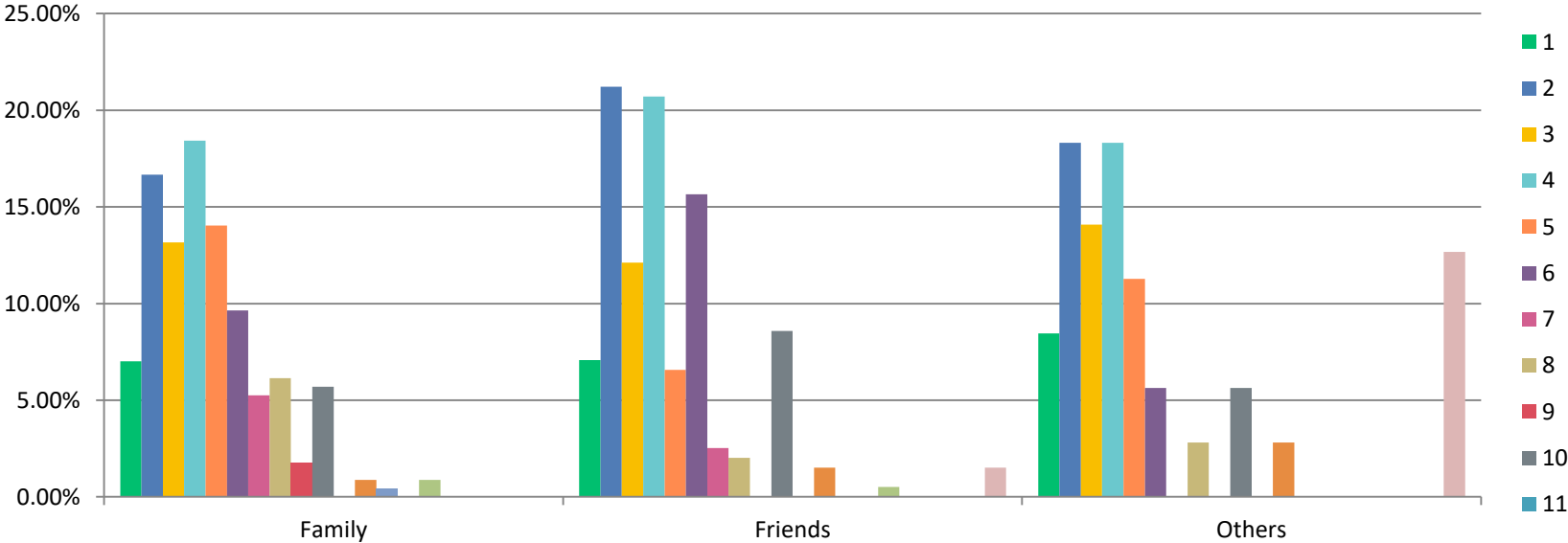
Q10: What age group do you belong to

Answered: 234 Skipped: 0



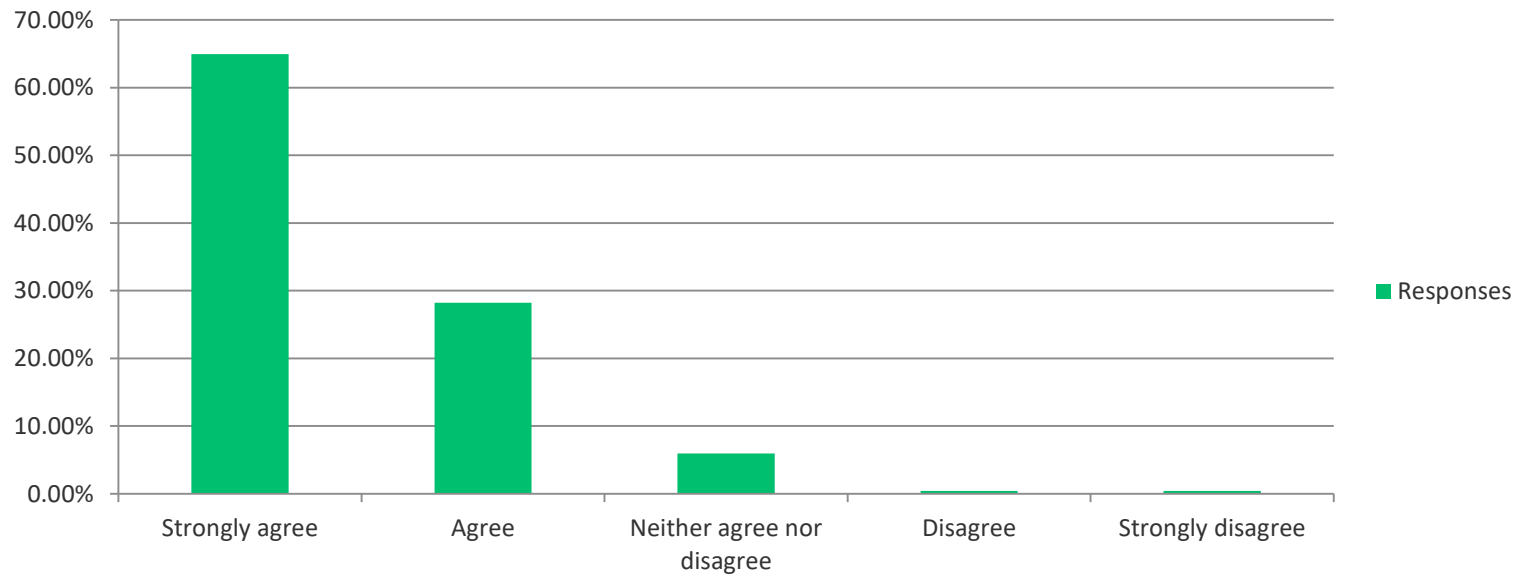
Q11: How many people directly benefit from your allotment;

Either from helping out or receiving seeds, plants or fruit/flower/vegetable produce, even a jar of jam or pickled onions etc. Answered: 233 Skipped: 1



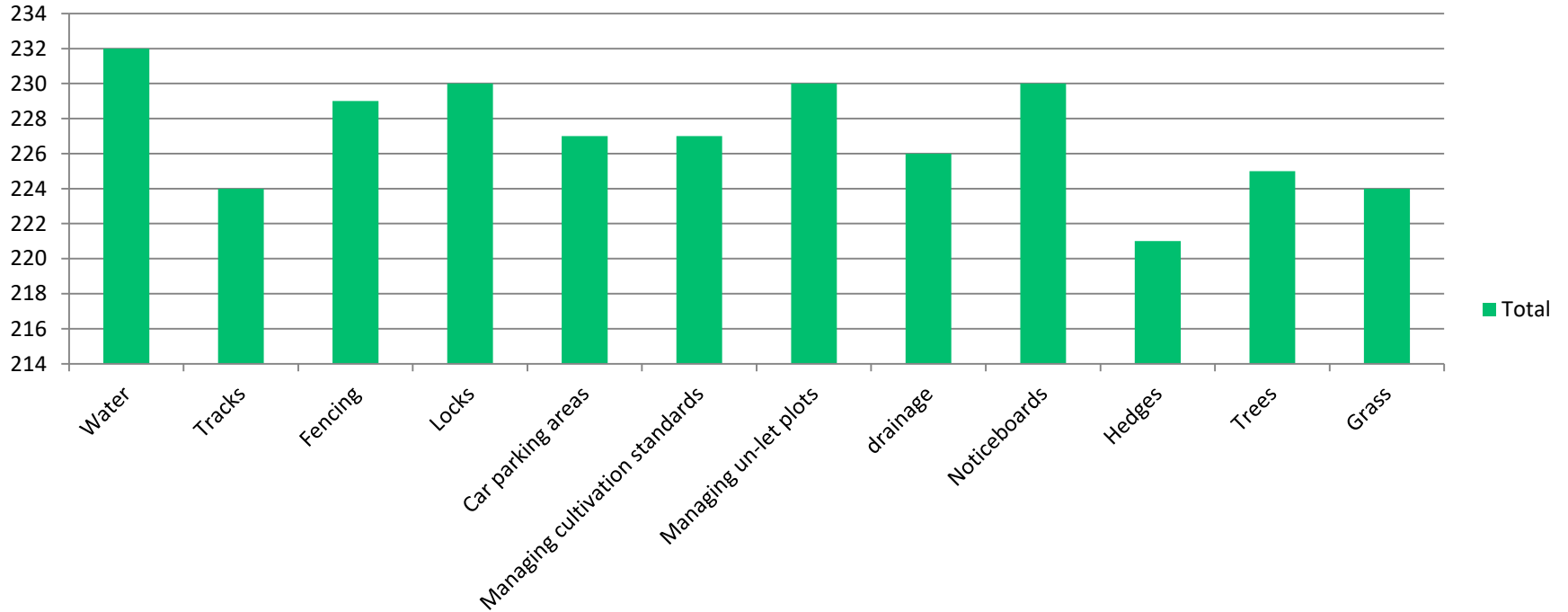
Q12: Do you agree that your health and wellbeing has benefited from having an allotment?

Answered: 234 Skipped: 0



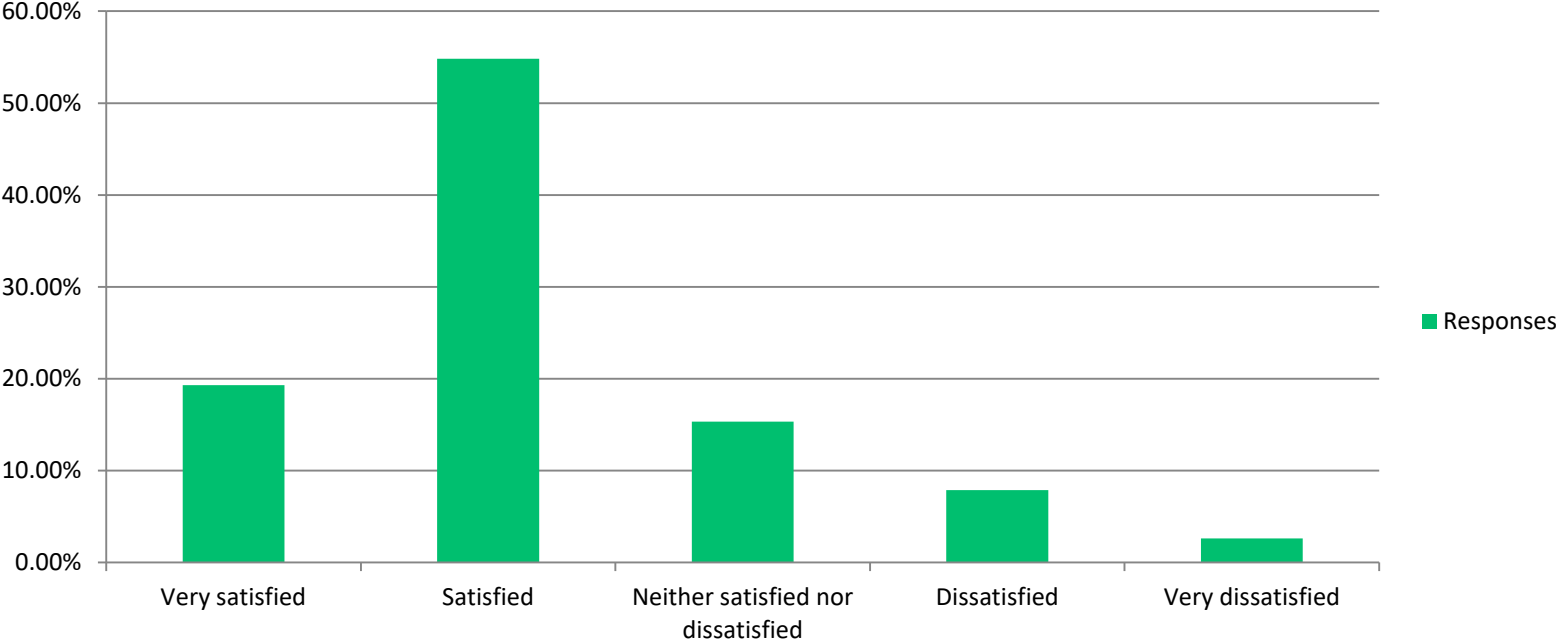
Q13: Are you satisfied with the management of the following aspects

Answered: 232 Skipped: 2



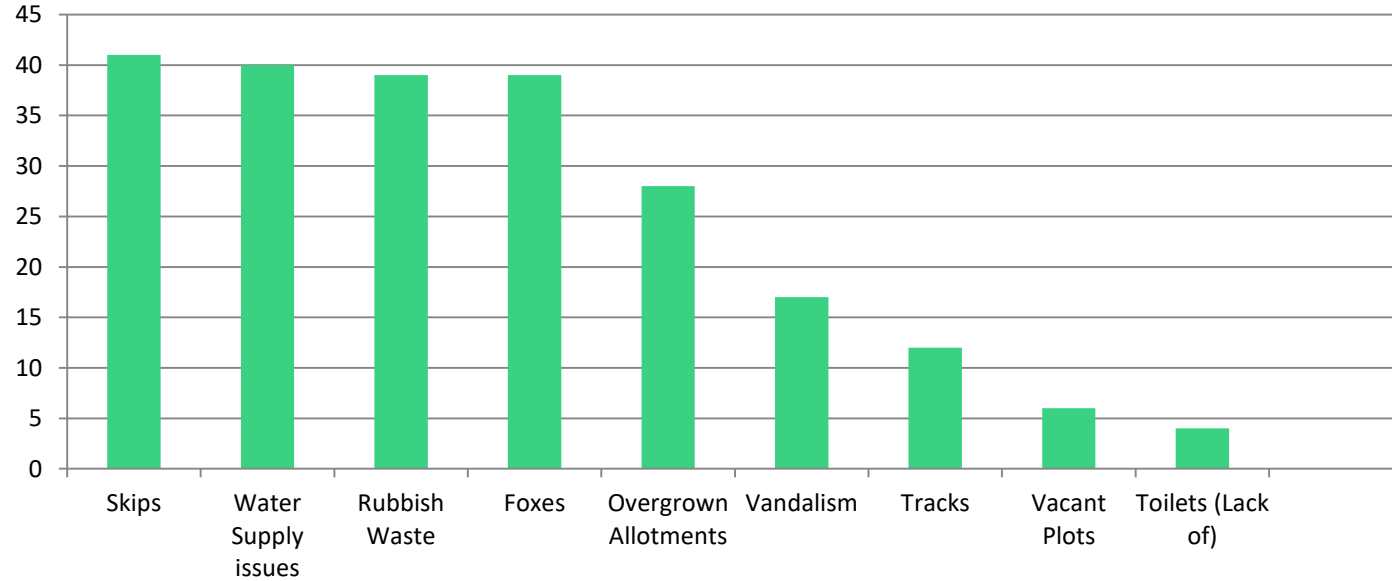
Q14: Overall, how satisfied are you with the allotment service provided

Answered: 228 Skipped: 6



Q15: Overall, what are the top three issues on your allotment site?

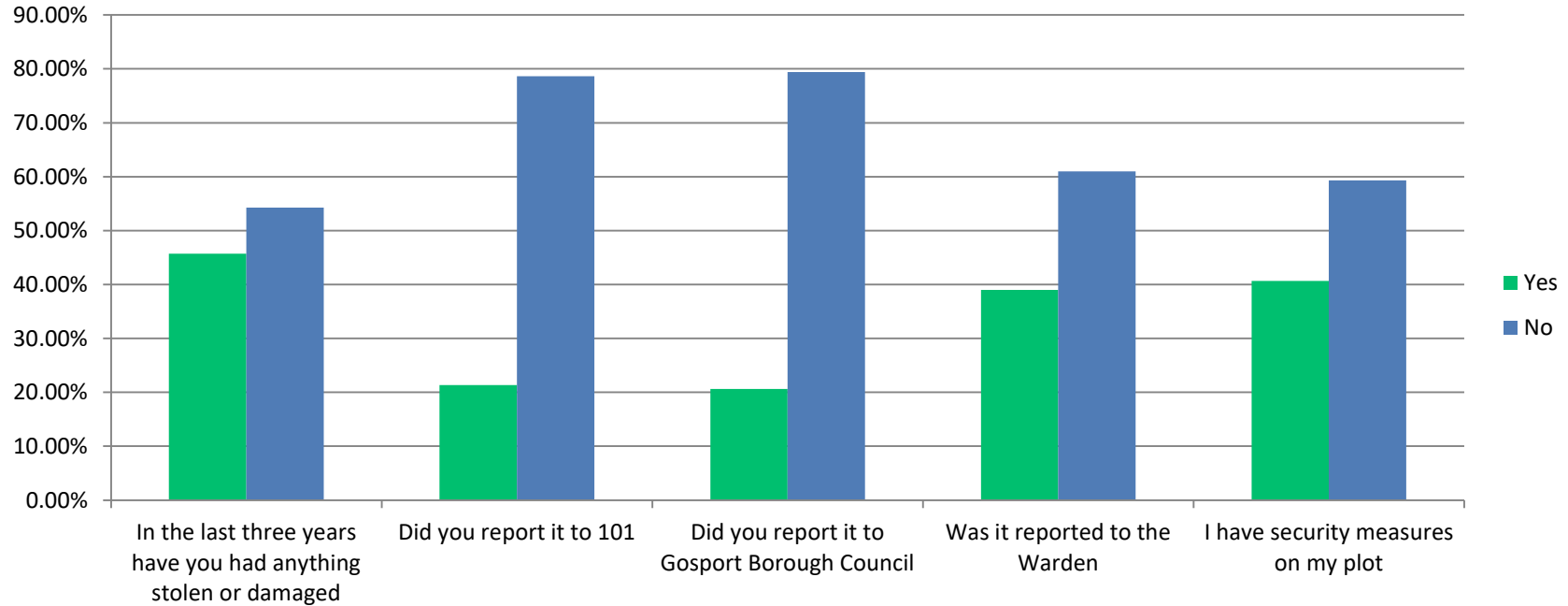
Answered 207 Skipped 27



Comments received recorded in Appendix D

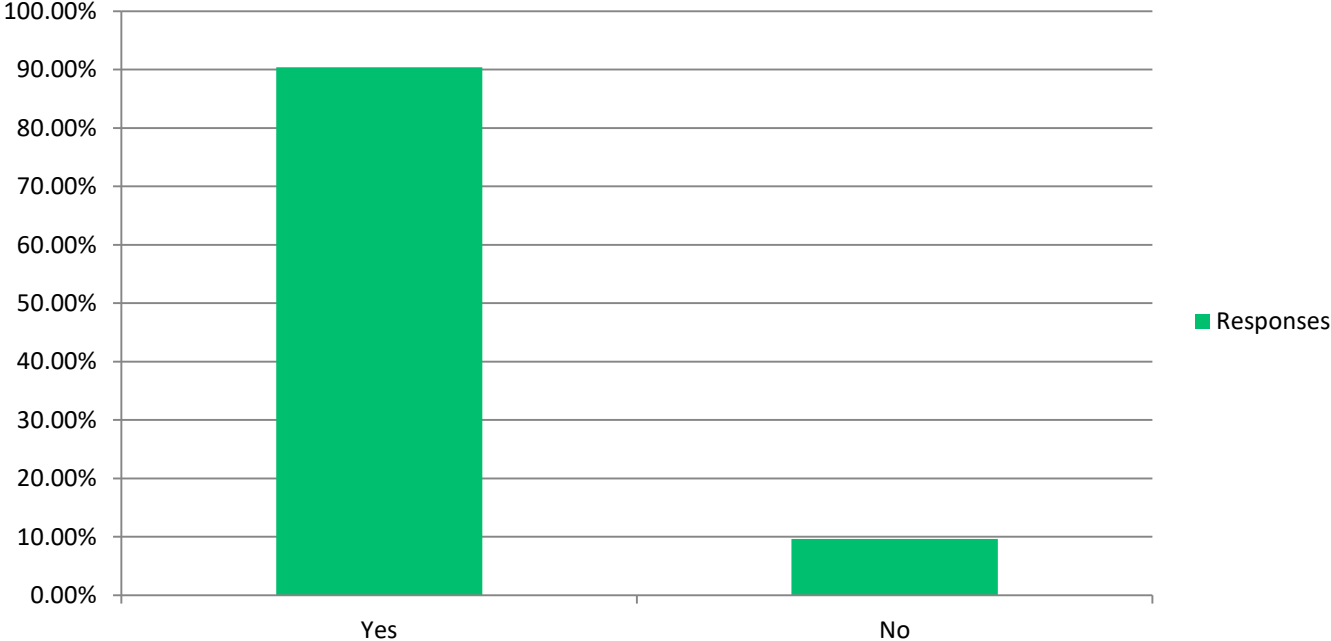
Q16: Vandalism & Break-ins at the allotment site

Answered: 234 Skipped: 0



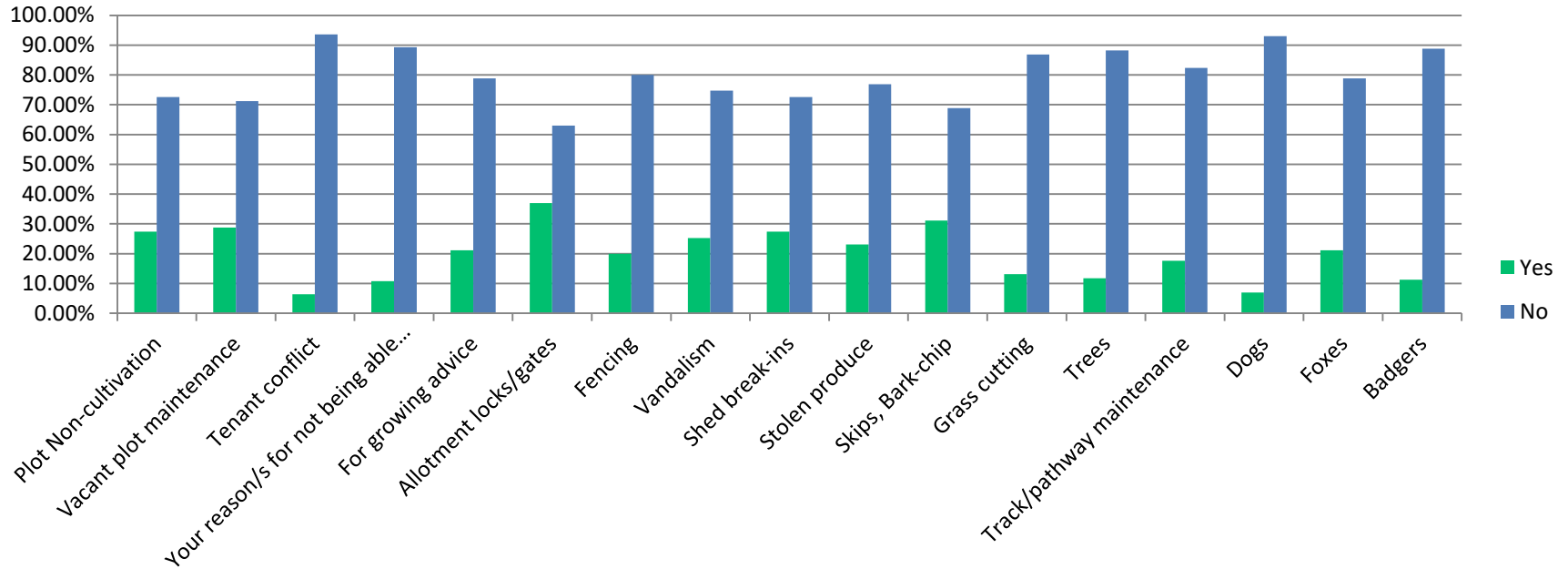
Q17: Is there a warden at your allotment site

Answered: 229 Skipped: 5



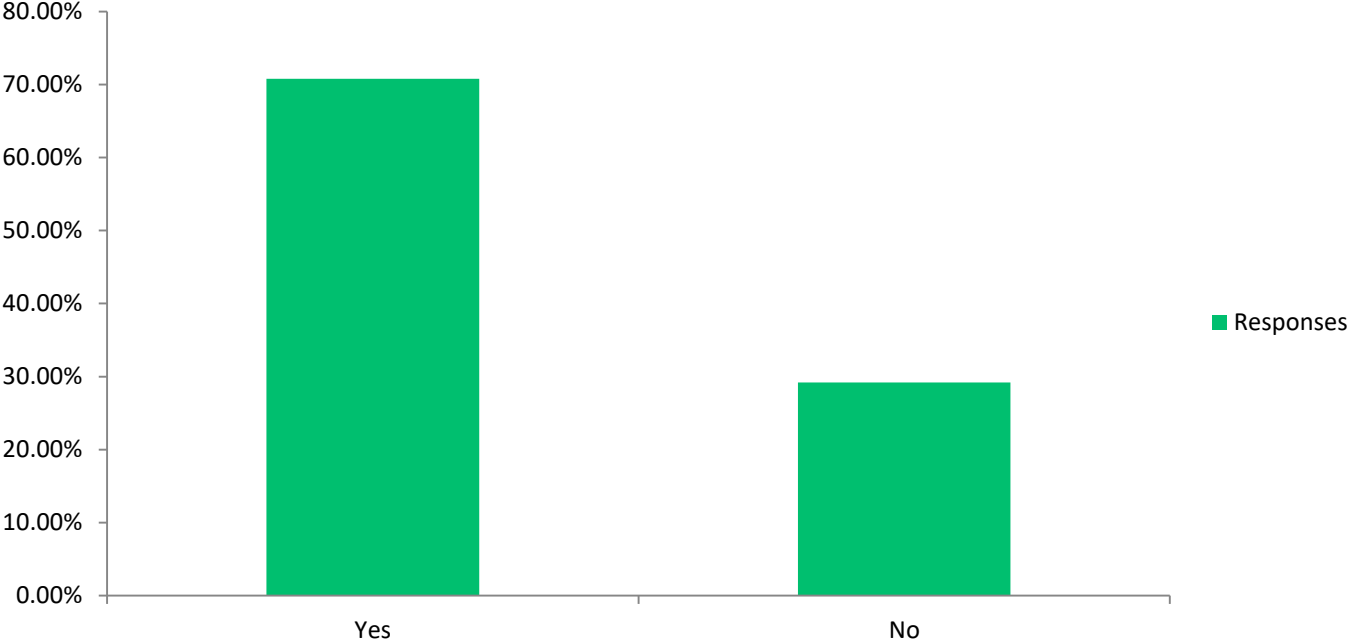
Q18: Have you communicated with the warden regarding any of the following issues

Answered: 221 Skipped: 13



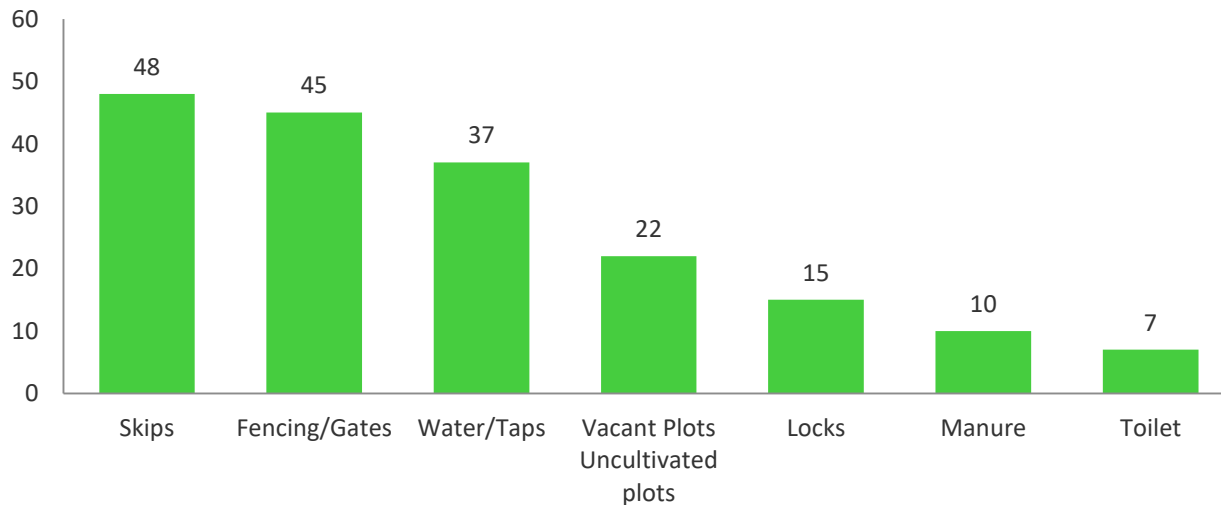
Q19: Do you know how to contact your Site Warden should you need to

Answered: 226 Skipped: 8



Q20: Do you think there are any areas in which the allotment service could be improved? Open ended question

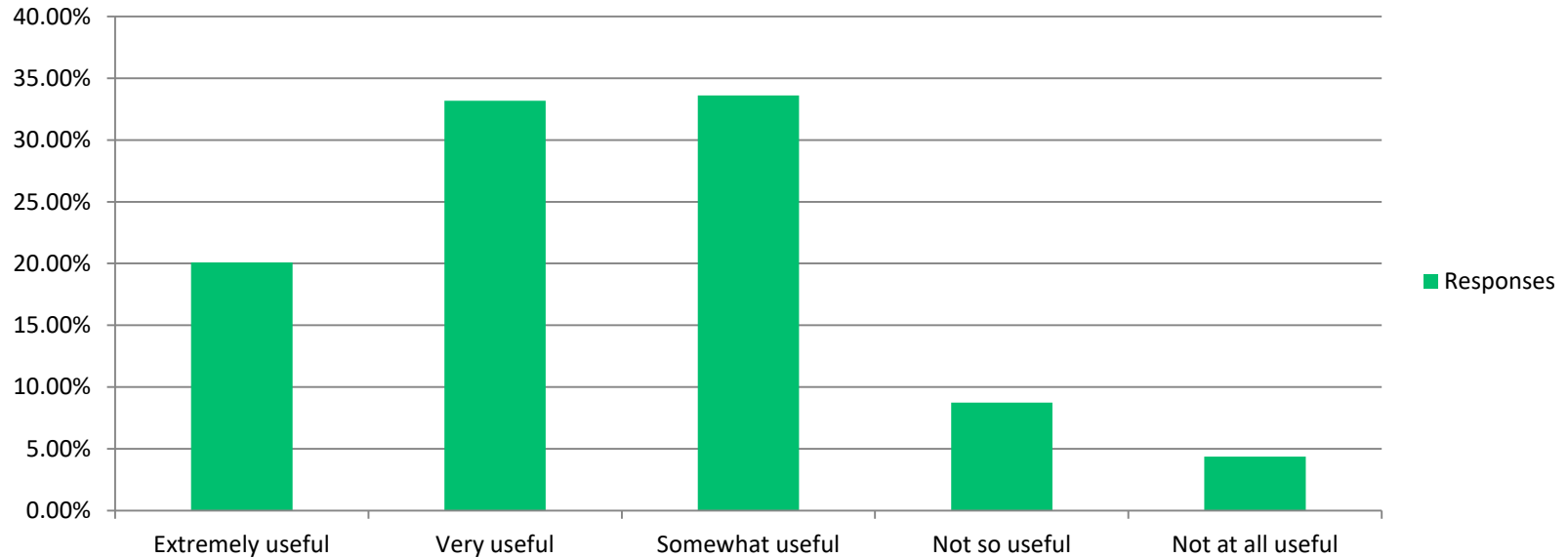
Answered: 187 Skipped: 47



Comments received recorded in Appendix D

Q21: Do you think it would be useful for new plot holders to be supported in their first year through mentoring or training

Answered: 229 Skipped: 5



Appendix 1 Expenditure to date on Allotment improvements

Location and Description	£
	200,000
Gosport and Lee:- Upgrading all facility locking mechanisms	7,940
Camden:- Upgrading perimeter security fence lines	34,700
Elson and Leesland:- Upgrading perimeter security fence lines	12,400
Camden:- Provision of skip and car parking facilities	8,750
Brockhurst – security improvements and car parking	52,800
Lessland & Tukes Ave:- Provision of car parking facilities and security railings	10,000
Brockhurst:- Clearance of Surplus material	8,750
Total	135,340