

## Deer fencing Clammer Hill allotment

### Background

1. The allotment is bisected by a public footpath and comprises two fenced off areas and a grazing field.
2. The Council was advised that deer were getting into the allotment through the hedge abutting Clammer Hill Road. In August, the committee asked for quotes to simply fence off the access point at the road to see if this resolved the issue. Following the meeting, we received further information that deer were getting into the other part of the allotment.
3. We asked a local pest control company to do a site visit and they confirmed that the existing fencing (marked red below) is not adequate to keep deer out and that “if this deer problem is new, it’s likely that, due to the pandemic, venison prices have been (and still are) at an all time low. This means that deer have not been controlled properly, resulting in a sharp population increase.”



4. The Council’s allotment management information states that the Town Council has responsibility to ensure that each site is protected around it’s boundaries by deer fencing. No such deer fencing exists at Clammer Hill allotments.
5. We have obtained an initial quote of £5,880 to fence the area marked red, but this sum exceeds the amount the Amenities Committee is authorised to approve.
6. However, simply fencing the area marked red does not future proof the site if the Council wants to increase the number of plots.

7. The public footpath is also “top and tailed” by gates which may need replacement if advised that they are not high enough to prevent deer jumping over them. These should adhere to the British standard and SCC would want to confirm suitability. Signage on the gates may also be required to let the public know it is a right of way and ask them to ensure they close the gates after them.
8. Fencing abutting the public footpath is starting to sag and the posts rot in some places, so this needs to be factored in.
9. Deputy Town Clerk has spoken to neighbours in the Old Vicarage who already deer fence/hedge on their boundary with the allotment. They are happy with our proposal.
10. Deputy Town Clerk has spoken to neighbour in North Cottage who is also happy with the proposals. However, he has asked that should option 3 be considered that he has access from the back of his property to the grazing field which he rents from us on an annual basis and keeps mown.

Members are asked to consider the following deer fencing options (in order that the Deputy Town Clerk can obtain appropriate quotes) and make a recommendation to Full Council to get the project into the budget for 2022-2023. In all instances, we will need to get vegetation cleared in order to install the fencing.