

GINHALL LANE ALLOTMENTS

COMMUNITY SPACE

PROPOSAL

To create a community space in a central location within the site for use by all allotment gardeners.

BACKGROUND

Since its inception in 2006 the allotment site had had no provision of a communal building. For events such as open days, a grassy bank has been used but this is rough, wet land which increasingly is used for parking.

About two years ago a ¼ sized plot was given over for use by the community on which had stood a second hand greenhouse. More recently the Allotment Association has been offered the use of the adjoining ½ sized plot, initially on a rent free basis. Elsewhere on the site is a derelict ½ sized plot, unfenced grassland unused for more than two years. Perhaps if this plot was re-instated by allotment volunteers to a standard fit for rental, then the revenue could off-set the loss of income from the Community space in the longer term.

RATIONALE

Establishing a Community space would have a positive impact upon many allotment gardeners:

- Present opportunities to develop a sense of community
- Provide a focus for allotment events
- Encourage exchange of information, knowledge and skills

PROCESS

The Allotment Association has been successful in its application to the Town Council for a grant towards purchasing and furnishing of a communal shed. The support of the Town Council is much appreciated by allotment tenants. Association committee members have collated their ideas with the aim to optimise the potential of the community space as follows:

COMMUNAL SHED WILL PROVIDE

- An informal meeting place
- Shelter from inclement weather (not all allotment gardeners have their own sheds)
- A conduit for horticultural literature; books, magazines, seed catalogues
- An exchange of information including newsletters, notices, minutes of meetings and map of the site which helps orientate new tenants
- A possible setting for demonstrating and teaching practical skills
- Housing of first aid kit
- A H.Q. for events such as open days, produce show, seed and plant swops

OUTDOOR SPACE

- Greenhouse and potting shed for shared use
- Water butts for rainwater collection from greenhouse and community shed
- Grassland area for picnics, sitting and relaxing
- Barbeque
- Herb garden
- Flower border
- Bug hotel
- Pergola possibly for growing vines
- Boundary planted with trained fruit, aesthetically beautiful, productive and can be used to demonstrate/teach pruning skills

MAINTENANCE

The Allotment Association accepts responsibility for the site. The shed will be secured with the same padlock system as the security gates. The Association will also seek volunteers to assist with:

SHED

- Application of wood preservative externally
- Cleaning of the interior
- Timely updating of the notice board, literature and general tidiness

GREENHOUSE

- Co-ordination of use
- Cleaning and tidiness

OUTSIDE

- Lawn mowing
- Weeding
- Trained fruit pruning
- Harvesting
- Utilisation of crops

CONCLUSION

Through developing a central space, freely available for all, our allotment gardeners will enjoy an environment which will nurture a friendly and cohesive community.

**WRITTEN BY LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION AND APPROVED BY
LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL 2015**