

GINHALL LANE ALLOTMENTS

PROTOCOL: FROM MINI TO FULL SIZE PLOTS

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR GARDENERS

BACKGROUND

Initially the seeds were sown for this proposal when one of our older allotmenters, who had been an allotment gardener for 70 years, was struggling following an accident. He continued working a third of his plot for a time; the remaining ground was taken by a new tenant.

However, he reluctantly gave up his plot although he had wished to continue growing his rows of runner beans. Indeed, another plot holder offered him space on her plot, but before the season began she left and so did he!

RATIONALE

We wish to enable and support our gardeners and hope they continue to reap the physical and psychological benefits of growing their own produce. We aim to be an inclusive allotment community through responding to individuals changing circumstances and providing a range of plots from mini to full-size to suit their needs.

PROCESS

- Select a half plot which is vacant
- Determine the required number and size of plots
- Include, if possible, a shed/shelter with rain water collection
- Plan its design to allow it to be reconfigured to quarter plots in the future if required
- Consider applying for financial support from the West Midlands branch of the National Allotment Society
- Engage with the Probation Service which could, under the guidance of the site manager, clear the plot and construct the raised beds and possibly a shelter
- Each plot will be numbered for administration purposes
- This scheme would be managed by the site manger

OUTCOME

With an effectively managed system we will meet the changing needs of our allotment gardeners

The scope for the use of these plots may widen to include:

- Gardeners with limitations who could manage a mini plot would have the opportunity to be part of the allotment community
- New tenants could utilise a mini plot for a short term crop while they are in the initial stages of planning and preparing their own large plots for cultivation
- Gardeners who are on the waiting list for larger plots could benefit from temporary small scale cultivation
- When plots are vacant, our established allotment gardeners would have the opportunity to grow an additional seasonal crop
- Through providing this resource we will help promote a sense of inclusivity and community on our allotment site

**WRITTEN BY LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF
LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL 2013**