

(14th May 2023 – updated)

Collated Allotment Survey Responses

Number of responses: 18 in total (not all participant answered all Qs)

Data tables include % of responses and number of people in brackets.

Q1 How much of a problem these issues are:

Issue	Critical problem	Significant problem	Somewhat a problem	Not a problem
Security/theft at the allotment*	5.56% (1)	22.22% (4)	16.67% (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daffodil flowers taken last week	50.00% (9) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't leave anything valuable
Deer on the allotments	27.78% (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walking through plot• Have to net to prevent damage• Plants killed or damaged	27.78% (5)	5.56% (1)	33.33% (6)
Other (please state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5.56% (1)• Large vehicles, campers and bouncy castles coming onto allotments to gain access to Scout field – gate left open.	27.78% (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pigeons/Rooks• Dog poo• Bolt on large gate hard to pull• Lack of grass cutting area of gate near Scouts• Service of water tanks	16.67% (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor acts of anti-social behaviour• Dog walkers/dogs off leads around allotments• Need compostable loo	0

*Since the addition of padlocks on all access points in March 2023.

Q2 Experience of issues first-hand.

➤ **Theft of items at the allotment (please state what and approximate value of loss)**

Tally: (5)

Comments:

- Theft of 3 plastic chairs and a large drum used as a table, shed has been searched
- Garden chair and garden platform
- Lawnmower
- Pumpkins stolen
- Daffodil flowers

➤ **Loss of crops due to wildlife (please state what crops and suspected wildlife)**

DEER

OTHER/NOT SPECIFIED

Tally: (10)

Comments:

- Slugs (squash), wire worms/slugs (potatoes), carrot fly (carrots), birds/cabbage (brassica)
- Loss of sweetcorn due to deer
- Spinach, beetroot, sweetcorn, fruit trees, dianthus flowers, pumpkin, marrow
- Runner beans at night, deer
- Runner beans, pea plants, strawberries and blackcurrants eaten overnight (deer)
- Runner beans, cabbage, beetroot tops (deer based on footprints)
- Beans, chard – deer as eaten up to deer height
- Runner beans, French beans, beetroot, flower buds and dahlias (deer)
- Leeks, sprout tops, sweetcorn (deer)
- Deer eating runner beans and anything else unless enclosed. Have had to do it for last 5 years or more. Deer walking through seeds just sown.

➤ **Observed deer in the allotment area (please state what type if known and time of day)**

ALLOTMENTS

OTHER/SURROUNDING AREAS

Tally: (9)

Comments:

- Deer footprints in the snow on plot, deer seen near Scout hut
- Roe deer in the late afternoon*
- One deer at dawn near Scout hut
- Footprints across plot x3
- Once near Scout hut in the evening, not in the allotments
- 9am coming from in from Scout hut field
- Red and fallow deer sightings *

*NB Red and fallow deer require 1.8m high minimum fencing, roe and muntjac require 1.5m

➤ **Other wildlife of concern in the allotment area (please state)**

DEER

OTHER/NOT SPECIFIED

Tally: (7)

Comments:

- Dog poo/dogs off lead concerns x3
- Humans and the impact of slug pellets (still widely used contrary to PC policy) on hedgehog population.
- Birds, mice and ants – anything young not protected by netting or wire
- Threat to wildlife from some of the measures being suggested
- Rats

Q3 Supported measures:

Potential Measure	Strongly support	Support	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Fencing around all four sides of the allotments, 1.5 metres high*	44.44% (8)	11.11% (2)	11.11% (2)	22.22% (4)
Fencing along the eastern boundary shared with the Scout Hut, 1.5 metres high*	27.78% (5)	22.22% (4)	16.67% (3)	16.67% (3)
Additional tier of fencing on the southern boundary (by the football field) to increase the height to 1.5m*	27.78% (5)	11.11% (2)	16.67% (3)	22.22% (4)
Growing a substantial, compact hedge on the eastern boundary to incorporate hawthorn and other native plants	11.11% (2)	61.11% (11)	5.56% (1)	11.11% (2)
Electronic deer repellent device (solar powered with sounds and lights to repel animals in the area)	5.56% (1)	11.11% (2)	11.11% (2)	44.44% (8)
Individual plot holders to add their own netting or preventative measures as they see fit	22.22% (4)	27.78% (5)	16.67% (3)	5.56% (1)
Take no action, let nature take its course	11.11% (2)	11.11% (2)	5.56% (1)	33.33% (6)

*Recommended minimum height for deer fencing

Completed surveys from:

Eastcombe allotment holder	17
Eastcombe resident	8 (also allotment holders)
Scout group	1
Other	0

Comments/suggestions/concerns from all surveys collated into categories:

Topic	Comment
Fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of a fence all the way round would be expensive, would not want to have cost of allotment to rise. • A fence around would be a very good solution and I'd be happy to pay extra on my rent to help install this measure. Thank you and hope this helps. • A fence around the entire allotment would be unsightly and a waste of money. It would also potentially prevent safe passage of other wildlife. • Support a fence but it needs to be higher than that. • If we are to have deer fencing then it needs to be on all 4 sides, not just the Scout hut side. This would also stop dogs and other people who frequently wander through the allotments often walking dogs. • We support wildlife but what is the point in spending a lot of money on an allotment if deer eat everything. Seeds and equipment cost money. It is soul destroying to spend a lot of time and effort to have it all eaten by deer. • Maybe support a fence if the cost was not prohibited.
Hedge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing a hedge will take time, if it is not eaten/damaged before it gets to a height that will stop/deter the deer. • Who will maintain the hedge whilst it is growing and at what cost? • Growing a hedge sounds best, however, it will be some years before this could be effective, if at all. • It would take a long time for the hedge to become deer-proof. • Deer can still get through a hedge, and people. • Would take many years but all hedges are welcome for the birds.
Crime/Theft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft is a problem and always will be. Without 24 hours CCTV cameras the chance of witnessing a theft is low. Crime prevention would be better. Don't bother locking your sheds so they aren't damaged. Do not leave anything in the shed that you would not want to lose. As for produce, pick it or dig it up before the thieves help themselves. I think the padlocks will help with this and a fence would be a good deterrent.
Scouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would the Scouts gain access or what gate/fence be fitted to accommodate the access to the Scout field? • The Scout and Guide groups position is that access to our field must be maintained regardless of whatever solution is chosen by the parish council. We do however rely on rental income to support the operation of the group and it forms a major part of our finances. We have recently been booking wedding receptions more frequently and passing a tall fence might not give the lovely countryside appeal that people perhaps might be looking for on the approach to their reception venue. • The most sensible way forward for us, would be that any fence erected to appease the allotment holders should be erected on the left-hand side of the trackway from the road gate to our field access, therefore permanently separating the allotments from our access and resolving this issue in a long term way. The group would be happy to take that short piece of land into its lease and look after the maintenance of it going forward providing the fence was erected as suggested.
Pace/Timescale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are now in a new growing season and nothing has been actioned although this was first raised last year. • As allotment warden I have submitted paperwork over many months which has seemingly been ignored.

Costs/Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'd rather see the PC spend money on supporting traffic calming measures and addressing the traffic issues within the village or supporting wildlife corridors. • Strongly oppose wasted council funds in a cost of living crisis, could be much better spent on positive measures for the community to improve it or traffic issues/safety concerns in the village.
Electronic repellent device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic deer repellent device would annoy the nearby local householders. • I would have a concern over using electronic repellent devices. These can disrupt the senses of hedgehogs for example. I think we should consider a more environmentally friendly solution and putting our own measures in place.
Wildlife/pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual plot holders should only need to net against normal pests.