

## **CRANNAFORD ALLOTMENTS – PATH REMEDIATION**

### Introduction

The Committee considered the communal pathways within Crannaford Allotments at its meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Minute A/22/62 refers.

The communal pathways are all laid to grass and during inclement weather they can become extremely wet and boggy underfoot. This can reduce the capability of wheeled vehicles and limit the accessibility to individual plots.

The Council's Ground Maintenance Contractor installed Grass Protecta matting at the Event Space which has seen very positive results and the committee agreed to evaluate its performance and effectiveness over the winter months to assess its suitability for other areas, in particular the Crannaford Allotments.

The Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor has been consulted on the options for remediation and their recommendation are outlined below:

### Options

Despite its effectiveness in the Country Park the Grass Protecta matting is not considered viable for use at the Allotment site and the Committee is asked to consider alternative remediation.

The paths could be prepared as per the style in St Martin's Play area at an estimated cost of £76.00 per linear metre covering an area of approximately 400m<sup>2</sup> plus additional costs to cover drainage. Estimated cost of £30,400 plus drainage for the whole of the allotment site.

Alternatively, drains could be installed to the rear and middle ditches, where drainage is less effective, together with works to raise the rear path and reduce the steep slope, thereby improving access to plots along the rear fence. A summary of the suggested works, quoted as £4,825.00 is provided by the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor below:

- Install a drain the length of the ditch on the Western boundary and install one spur drain in the path. Cover with stone and hard core to help reduce the slope on this path. The path will be filled and seeded upon completion.

### Summary

If all the paths were to be topped with stone it would improve the whole site and reduce the impact from the tractor used to cut the hedges, where currently they cause damage from working on wet paths. However, given the cost of the proposed path remediation, it may be prohibitively expensive and therefore it may be prudent to

remediate the area along the western site boundary, which is currently most affected by poor drainage and sloping path.

### **Recommendation**

1. To delegate to the Clerk and the Property Administrator to discuss the proposals with the allotment holders.
2. To recommend to Council to approve the remediation of the communal footpath along the western boundary at Crannaforde Allotments and instruct the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor to carry out the works as quoted at a cost of £4,825.00 (plus VAT).