

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment (4)	
	<i>Date</i>	6 October 2026	
	<i>Document</i>		
		Allotment Clearance	CE4/43c

There was a problem area on one of the allotment locations which the Town Council inherited when it took responsibility for the sites. The more accessible parts of this area have been brought back into cultivation in recent years and are now tenanted. There is, however, one section that is beyond the scope of standard restoration, containing as it does large amounts of rubbish beneath the brambles.

Reports and updates have been provided to previous committee meetings and officers have sought advice from various potential horticultural and waste disposal contractors. All of these potential contractors have declined to provide a quotation for the work. Officers then had a site meeting with the Town Council's approved ground works contractor. His advice was that, whilst clearance is possible, the weighbridge costs might make rubbish removal very expensive.

Just leaving the space and containing it is an option, but there is currently a significant waiting list for allotments. One possible way forward might be to do the work in stages over a period of time, thereby spreading the cost. As ground is cleared, it could be covered with permeable membrane to keep it weed-free and then, once the whole space is completely cleared, it could be divided up into new allotment plots. If members consider this to be a suitable way forward, a maximum of £4,500 could be assigned for the current financial year for site clearance works. The cost would need to be assigned to EMR 335 (environmental improvements).

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager