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Briefing note

Community Allotment Plot Update

For Community Engagement Committee
9th April 2026

Hurst Allotment Association was awarded a grant towards their proposed Community Plot at the 11th September 2025 Community Engagement Committee Meeting. The following update formed part of the most recent Allotment Association Newsletter and the most recent version of the proposals for the plot is attached.

Thanks to the Parish Council and other local grants we are now in the position to begin work on this project. For those of you who may not know it is halfway down on the left-hand side coming from Albourne Road. It has a large polytunnel on it. It is proposed to have 6 raised beds, maintain the current apple trees, have a seating area and utilise the polytunnel. This plan will develop over time.

One of the reasons for wanting a community plot is to support those current allotmenters who can no longer maintain their plot but who would like to keep their association with the allotments, by having a manageable raised bed. The next priority would be the people at the top of the waiting list, then allotment holders and finally, committee members. There will be a nominal charge for this.

But work needs to be done first! So, we are offering you the opportunity to come and help sort the plot out, tidy the polytunnel, build raised beds, put membrane down, mulch etc. Beer and sandwiches will be provided...

The date for the first Community Plot Working Party will be 11th and 12th April



Community Allotment Plot Proposal

Prepared for: Allotment Soc.AGM

Prepared by: Steve Parish

9 November 2025

SUMMARY

Objective

Construction and maintenance of a community allotment plot (Plot No. 26B) for those unable to manage a larger area. To accomplish this help with funding and building is required. Hopefully, committee members and allotment holders who are interested in helping could be co-opted into helping with the build.

Goals

To source funds / grants from, preferably, local charities and then involve members of the allotment community to help with construction to reduce costs. Once built, the beds can be allocated to those who are struggling with large plots.

Project Outline

Order of works-

- Clear the site
- Lay 2 layers of weed suppressant membrane (100gsm membrane)
- Obtain sleepers (? Covers Burgess Hill)
- Build raised beds- 2.4mx1.2m.0.9m x ? 6
- Fill with topsoil
- Infill with 10cm thick mulch- hardwood path chips
- If possible obtain reclaimed timber for shuttering if required
- Other amenities to be discussed ie. Benches for sitting, composting area/small shed?

Funding

We have already secured a grant from the Parish Council for £500 towards the project. In addition to this I propose an application, initially, to local charities such as Hurst Community Charity who are very supportive of local initiatives. I am happy to pursue this if asked.

I feel we should allocate some of our allotment funds towards the project. We are more likely to get funding if we are contributing.

Addendum

See initial plan, plot initially to hold six raised beds to make the project affordable. I feel we should aim for the total number (9) of beds when demand and funds are available.

BUDGET

Initial budget

This illustration below is based on six initial raised beds. Approximate cost of any further beds works out at approximately £330 per unit.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Membrane roll 20mx2m	6	£ 24	£ 144
Green treated softwood sleeper 2400mmx190mmx90mm	54	£ 24	£ 1,296
Topsoil 750l bag	6	£ 114	£ 684
Hardwood path chips 1cubic metre bag	4	£ 190	£ 760
Total		£352	£ 2,884

Initial Plan

