

HAHA

Hungerford Allotment Holders Association

Fact Sheet

No 5

Marsh Lane Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to document the way in which all plot holders wish the site to be developed and so provide the Management Committee with guidance on funding priorities and credibility when approaching external bodies for grants or loans.

Overall vision for Marsh Lane

Productive, well-tended plots within an attractive site and with a friendly social environment. Long term tenure secured. Plant and equipment readily usable by any trained adult. This will be achieved by:

- Meeting the reasonable needs of the plot holders so as to achieve high occupancy levels and low rate of "churn".
- Nurturing the relationship with Hungerford Town Council which has legal accountabilities for allotments, associated obligations and powers to match.
- Being a good neighbour.
- Encouraging demand for allotments and engaging with the broader community within Hungerford, including linking with HEAT to maximise synergies.
- Maximising use of the skills and experience of all plot holders so as to create strong social bonds whilst minimising costs and demonstrating self-reliance.
- Ensuring adequate resources to deliver this vision.



Rabbit Fencing and Notice board

The Practicalities to deliver this vision

Fencing, Gates and Hedging

- Make site secure against rabbits, deer and trespassers.
- User friendly gates and locks.
- Hedging to be well-tended, provide privacy to neighbours and support bio-diversity.

Individual Plots

- Regular checks by Management Committee with follow-up to ascertain root cause of any problems.
- Offering help, guidance and training where appropriate.
- Management Committee strims or weed kills vacant and untended plots.

Paths and General Ground Works

- Low maintenance grass seeded so as to offer safe, easy walking with a wheel barrow.
- Plot holders mow paths adjacent to their own plots. Management Committee mow all other areas.
- Wild flowers in perimeter paths to encourage bio-diversity.
- Keep forecourt and site entrance neat and tidy. Remove waste tip once site is fully worked. Encourage southern corners to develop natural habitat.
- Consider bee hive(s) on or near the site.



Grass seeding in communal area

Container

- Outside to be painted, with screen planted on south and east sides.



- Inside fitted out to provide shelving for Seed Secretary, hanging storage for plot holders' tools and space for strimmer, lawn mower and generator.
- Doors lockable and easily operable.
- In longer term look to have a second "container", possibly with mains electricity.

Irrigation Water

- Provide a reliable source of water for planting out and for making good any deficits in the average, natural rainfall of 50 litres (5 watering cans) per pole per day. This will mean a peak daily demand across the site of 15 m³ per day.
- Deliver peak daily demand within a 4 hour watering window by means of troughs and storage tanks.
- Pump, controls and generator to be user friendly and as automated as is practicable within simplicity and cost constraints.
- In the longer term consider installing more troughs, larger diameter service pipes and mains electricity to allow a fully automated system.



Seed Secretary

- Provide seeds, plants, materials and fertiliser to meet the reasonable needs of plot holders.

- Generate income for the Communal Area and Social Fund.
- Offer discounts to encourage membership of HAHA.

Communal Area and Social Events

- Provide seating, plants and shrubs to create an attractive area for communal and social activities.
- Link with the broader community within Hungerford, using the full potential offered by the allotment site.
- Organise events to develop the Marsh Lane allotment community and raise funds for re-investment in the communal area.

Communications

- Provide a web site with unrestricted access by the general public, together with a forum with controlled access.
- Publish HAHA Times, available to all plot holders.
- Publish Fact Sheets to explain how the site is managed by HAHA and to aid compliance with the terms of the Plot Holder's Agreement with the Council.
- Use email and notice boards so as to minimise costs.
- Make consistent use of HAHA brand image on all communications.

General Management

- Agree site management terms with Hungerford Town Council and meet regularly with them for updates.
- Establish and maintain a register of plot holders, a waiting list and a register of assets.
- Enable and encourage feed back from plot holders.
- Identify and manage risks.
- Strictly control budgets and align investment with this strategy.