

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST.
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 6th APRIL 2022
ALLOTMENTS.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. At our last meeting the Management Committee gave initial consideration to a request from the Parish Council for the charity to consider allowing part of Charney Field to be used for allotments.

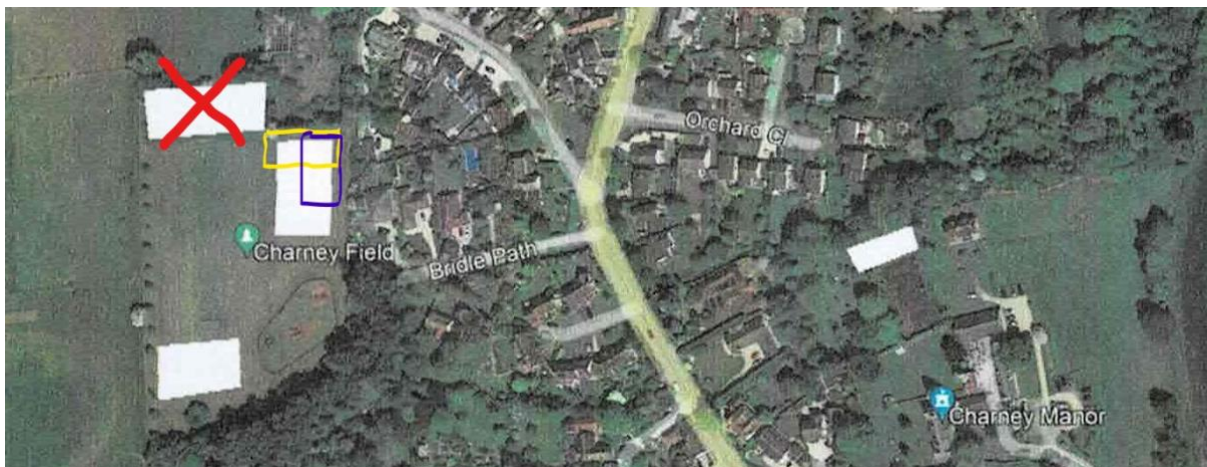
1.2 It is now known the request is for a notional area of 0.26 acre in the north-east of the field or 0.2 acre in the south-west of the Field (agenda item 14 of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th March).

1.3. Minute 22/31 of that meeting reads as follows:-

Allotment Site Search

The progress report was noted. The two active enquiries relate to Charney Field and Jubilee Orchard– the latter being possibly too shady. There was a comment that allotments would adversely affect the amenity of the Field. If no suitable site can be found, there is a compulsory purchase power. If those who have petitioned for new allotments continue to exceed six, the next step might involve a public meeting and a request for the Vale Council to become involved.

1.4 Since that meeting an email with map has been received from the Parish Council. The north east corner of the map shows two areas outlined in blue and yellow which are stated to be similar in size to the present allotments but slightly larger. Apparently views are mixed on whether the area that was being used at the Manor was large enough so the Parish Council have indicated requirements are being kept deliberately vague at this stage, leaving it to those in charge of the land to say what they might be prepared to make available. The area in the south west corner is highlighted as an area of potential interest, but the email acknowledges it isolates the willow arbour from the remainder of the field.



2. DRAFT RESPONSE.

2.1 The Charity owns the land in trust for the local community and if Trustees were to agree to the Parish Council purchasing or leasing land, such arrangements would have to be put on a formal basis for which legal advice would be necessary. Additionally, the allotments would need to be let via formal letting/tenancy agreements which again would be of significant interest to CHAFT as the landowner.

2.2 At this stage it would appear little consideration has been given to a range of issues associated with the provision of allotments for example

- water supply
- parking provision
- equipment storage facility
- composting area
- fencing
- footpaths

2.3 Trustees may also have concerns at the potential detrimental effect on the visual appearance of the field and its outline plans to improve the environmental appearance of the whole field.

2.4. Fundamentally, advice from Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and the Charity Commission suggests that Trustees would be well advised to seek advice from the Charity Commission on any formal proposal which

- restricts public access to any part of the charitable land
- involves the sale or lease of any part of the charitable land.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/352530/Disposal_of_land_and_buildings.pdf

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Trustees are recommended to forward this report to the Parish Council's in response to their request. In doing they understand the necessity for the Parish Council to make an enquiry of this nature but feel that they are unable to offer a solution to their search for land to be used for allotments.

30.03.22 Final