



# BURNHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

27 October 2022

Dear Parishioners

As you will be aware, the Parish Council has, with the help of a very enthusiastic and dedicated NDP Steering Group, taken up the challenge of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

The initial survey, completed by an unprecedented number of people (566), has shown overwhelming support for an NDP, which will form the framework for development policy over the next 15 years, enabling the community to have a voice in the future of the village.

During the survey the question of protected green spaces formed an important element of the plan, drawing overwhelming support for certain areas to be included in the NDP as Local Green Spaces (LGS). It has now come to the attention of the Parish Council that one of the areas proposed for this protection has met with opposition from the land owner; the area in question is the Westgate Allotment on Angles Lane.

Leased to the village by a member of the Roy family, around 100 years ago, as a goodwill gesture, to provide an allotment plot for the use of the community, it remains an important amenity for the village. Proof of this can be seen by the overwhelming support (72%), for this area to be included as a LGS, in an attempt to preserve the facility for future generations.

It has been explained to Roy Properties, that whilst the Regulation 14 consultation is in progress, the Parish Council is not permitted under the terms of the Localism Act 2011, to remove the allotments as a potential LGS. It was further explained to them that the Regulation 14 consultation is designed to gather the opinions and potential objections of the community, including landowners and stakeholders, and as such the objections of Roy properties will be acknowledged and noted.

Unfortunately, the Board of Roy Properties have indicated that if the allotment land is not removed from the LGS section of the NDP before the conclusion of the Regulation 14 consultation, they will terminate the lease with the Parish Council, and close the allotments.

The implications of this are two-fold, leaving the parish council in a very difficult position.

As previously stated, the Angles Lane allotments cannot at this stage be removed from the proposed LGS, yet failure to comply with Roy Properties wishes to immediately remove them may threaten the future of the allotments.

On the other hand, if the allotments are awarded LGS status then Roy Properties have stated that they will close the allotments; a seemingly impossible dilemma for the Parish Council.

In light of this impasse, the Parish Council has sought advice from BKLWN, who have confirmed that although within their rights to close the allotments, Roy properties cannot have them designated for any other use unless they provide an alternative allotment site, therefore reducing the potential use of the land for any other purpose.

The parish council has decided to hold this Extraordinary Parish Council meeting to bring this to the attention of the parishioners.

Burnham Market Parish Council