

Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	29 January 2013
Title:	Stones Close Allotments
Purpose of the Report:	a) To agree the rent for 2013-14 b) To receive the annual inspection report
Contact Officer:	Rob Goss – Project Officer

Background

The Stones Close Allotments are managed by the Stones Close Allotment Society (The Society). The arrangement is formalized through a Partnering Agreement. Two conditions within that agreement call for an annual site inspection by the Council to ensure the asset is being well maintained, and an annual review of the ground rent.

- a) Ground Rent:** The ground rent is currently set at £300. It is not possible to compare this fee with other allotments in the county as the responsibility of the management committees differ. The Council has always been keen to support and develop this type of community activity and has not previously looked to accept anything at a nominal fee.

There have been no significant alterations or developments in the responsibility between the two parties, and no change to the overall area that is rented to tenants.

The Society has maintained the rent to plot holders for the past two years. The officer recommendation is for the rent payable to Council to remain unchanged for the period 2013-14.

- b) Annual Inspection Report:** The annual inspection has been completed and the findings are summarised in Appendix 1. The site is being well managed and relationships with different sectors of the community developed. Following the site inspection:
- The site plan has been updated with minor changes to the plot sizes, and the addition of 4 new plots.
 - A copy of the insurance policy has been received.
 - A copy of the accounts has yet to be received.

Risk Assessment

The Society is strong both in membership and financial stability. The site is well maintained and on inspection there are no issues for concern. There are no obvious risks arising from this report.

Resource Appraisal

An annual rent of £300 is received from the Allotment Society.

Legal Powers:

The Committee is recommended:

- i) To agree that the rent remains at £300 for the financial year 2013-14.*
- ii) To note the attached inspection report.*