

Extract from draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 January 2023

Lease of Land at Station Road, Kemble

The purpose of the report was to seek support for the Council to enter into a lease arrangement with a Community Group, for the use of the land at Station Road, Kemble, as allotments and community gardens, and that land allocated in the adopted Local Plan for new homes should be deallocated to secure the continued and long term use as allotments and community gardens.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services introduced the report and provided context for the recommendation that, having considered the substantial subsidy required to build a limited number of social rented or affordable homes on part of the site, and the huge social, ecological, environmental and wildlife enhancing value of the gardens, allotments and land, it had been concluded that enabling local Community Group to protect and improve the site as a local asset was preferred.

Cabinet noted that the local community was in favour of retaining the site, gardens and allotment green area within the village.

The Forward Planning Manager stated that the site was small within the Local Plan with only 8 dwellings (originally 12) and should they not be developed at this site they would be developed elsewhere as part of the District's 8,500 property target outlined within the Local Plan. It was also more likely that the planned properties could be developed more cost effectively at other locations within the District where economies of scale could be achieved. It was also stated that this was also the only site chosen by the inspector for a site visit, in order that the small development site could be evaluated in conjunction with neighbouring protected green areas.

Cabinet noted that the terms of the lease arrangements and any associated aspects (e.g. insurances) would be the subject of negotiations.

The Chair invited the Ward Member to comment, who stated that the Parish Council had only recently been made aware of the proposal, and there were positives and negatives with both developing much needed social housing and alternatively providing and securing a popular local amenity

RESOLVED: Cabinet agreed to:

- (a) Enter into a lease arrangement on mutually agreeable terms for land at Station Road, Kemble for use as allotments and community gardens.
- (b) Note that the terms of the lease will be agreed in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and S.151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.
- (c) Instruct the Forward Planning Manager to deallocate the residential site allocation K_2A Land at Station Road, contained within the adopted Cotswold District Local Plan (2011 to 2031), via the Local Plan Partial Update programme of work

Voting Record – For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 0,