

# Lichfield City Council

## Additional Allotment Land - Public Consultation

There is currently a very high demand for allotments in Lichfield City which cannot be met from the existing allotment land available.

The City Council therefore proposes to provide 1.7 acres of additional allotments by using part of an area of public open space alongside the A51 (Western Bypass) at Christchurch.

This consultation seeks your views on this proposal.

### Background

Allotments have been a traditional feature of urban and rural areas for many years, and the City Council has a legal duty to provide allotments where a demand exists. There are many benefits from allotments - including the opportunity for people to grow their own produce at low cost, whilst getting fresh air and exercise.

Lichfield City Council owns about 12 acres of allotments in the City, which are run by the local Allotment Society. Demand for allotments has been rapidly increasing in recent years and there are now over 100 people on the waiting list.

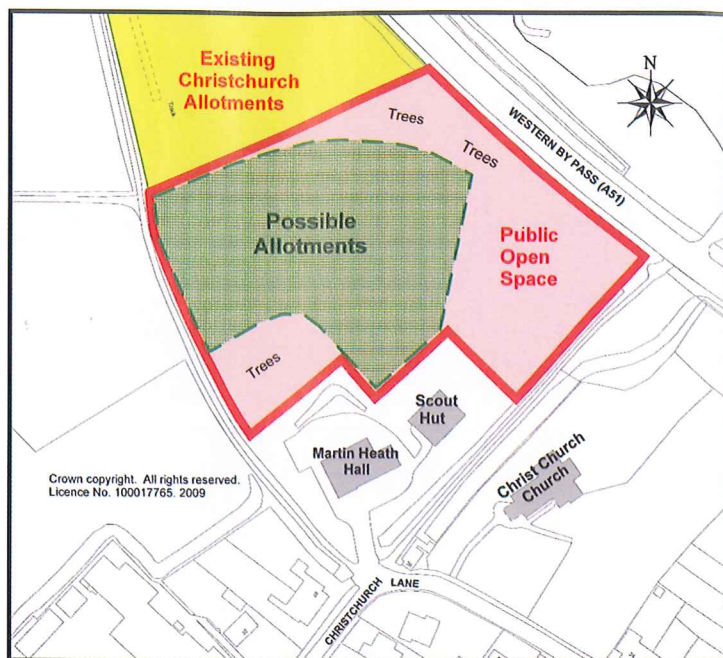
The Allotment Society has been helping to meet this demand by splitting allotments into smaller sized plots when they become vacant. This works well as many people do not want a 'full size' allotment and it also increases the number of plots available. But this still does not meet all the demand, and at current turnover levels a person wanting an allotment in the City is likely to face a wait of up to five years.

But meeting the legal requirement to provide allotments is potentially costly, particularly if it requires purchase of land in an area such as Lichfield which has high land values. This cost will need to be met by the City Council.

### Proposal

There is an area of public open space between the Martin Heath Hall and the Western Bypass. This is a grassed area with some woodland planting, and is not heavily used by the public as open space.

The land is owned by Lichfield District Council who will transfer it to the City Council subject to a legal condition that the land is used only for allotments and/or open space. The City Council would then create



Location of proposed new allotments

allotments on part of the land (about 1.7 acres) leaving the remainder of the area as a public open space.

The advantage of this is that it would provide additional land for allotments at relatively low cost whilst retaining a usable part of the field as public open space. However, it would not meet all the demand for allotments in the City and it would also reduce the area of public open space.

The red line in the above drawing shows the current area of public open space at this site. The proposal is to create allotments in the part of the area which is coloured green. The area coloured pink would remain as public open space. If demand for allotments fell in the future, then the allotment area could potentially be restored to open space use.

### RESPONSE SLIP

Lichfield City Council proposes to create additional allotments by using part of the public open space area at Christchurch, as shown on the plan above. Please tick **ONE** box to show whether you agree or disagree with this proposal

Agree

☐

Neither Agree  
Nor Disagree

☐

Disagree

☐

Please add any comments here.

Your name .....

Your postcode .....

The results of this consultation will be published, but no information will be released by which your response will be personally identifiable.

Please return your slip (no stamp needed) to

Lichfield City Council, FREEPOST WV1886, Guildhall, Bore St, Lichfield, WS13 6BR

YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2010