



Consultations,
(c/o Alan Higgins),
Chief Executive's Office,
Room 37, 1st Floor,
Worthing Town Hall, Chapel Road,
Worthing, West Sussex,
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14th December 2019

For the attention of Alan Higgins

On behalf of the Worthing Allotments and Gardens Association (WAGA) I would like to respond to the recent proposal to build a walking / cycling path through the middle of Chesswood Farm allotments.

The proposed route is named 202 and details of it can be found at <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/lcwip/>

There is no doubt that a walk through an allotment garden is a most enjoyable thing to do, as is a walk through farmland in the countryside and the majority of people would not cause a problem to the allotment gardeners. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world and allotments contain both tools which are very valuable to their owners and crops which the allotment gardeners have spent months growing from seed to maturity.

It is unfortunate that allotments need to be fenced but it is a reality that a small minority of people steal both tools and crops from allotments. Many allotment gardeners keep their tools in sheds and these can become the target for vandalism and arson.

The main road that runs through the centre of the site is in constant use for access to the plots and for the movement of manure and other gardening products. This probably makes the road unsuitable for the safe use of bicycles fitted with road tyres due to the possibility of skidding especially in wet weather. There would also be a risk from collision between bicycles and the allotment users.

The only way to achieve the proposal therefore would be to split the allotment into two fenced compounds which would both spoil the character of the site and make its management extremely difficult, I expect that Worthing Allotment Management (WAM) will expand on this point further. The cost of this amount of fencing would be significant, especially at a time when allotment holders are being told that the council has no money and as a result of this, they will have to self-manage themselves.

I hope the above considerations will be included in any future survey of Chesswood Farm allotment Gardens and that a safe and practical solution can be found to the routing of this new walking and cycling route.

Yours Faithfully

Daryl Alden

Secretary of Worthing Allotments and Gardens Association (WAGA)

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