

Alderbury Parish Council

Southampton Road Allotments: Position Statement



Context

The land on which the Southampton Road allotments are provided was sold in 2021 to a new owner by Longford Estate. Alderbury Parish Council held a license with Longford Estate which provided permission to use the land for the purpose of providing allotments until 1st April 2026. At the time of sale, a continuing license was agreed with the new owners on the same terms and expiring on the same date.

Position of Alderbury Parish Council

The following statements set out the Council's formal position in relation to this matter.

1. The Council will seek to retain the existing site, access, and parking area.
2. The Council will seek to agree the freehold gift of the allotments as part of any future development of the site. A freehold will remove uncertainty for tenants, guarantee the future of the site and facilitate a decision on whether the PC or the SRAA owns the allotments.
3. Seek a variation of the existing license to provide 12 months' notice in the case of termination (the current license provides only 6 months' notice).
4. In the event of the owners, or the SRAA, deciding that they wish to terminate the licence and relocate the allotments, the Council will:
 - (a) Seek a larger, secure site with utility services and improved amenities. This is justified due to the increased demand for allotment plots any new development will create - the Council already has a waiting list.
 - (b) Seek suitable replacement land either within the curtilage of the new owner's land holding or through purchase of a suitable alternative site with unfettered freehold ownership provided for the Council.
 - (c) Seek to minimise disruption to existing tenants by phasing relocation during the winter season in readiness for the spring growing season.
 - (d) Seek reasonable compensation arrangements for tenants who have invested in improvements carried out on the land
5. As the Licensee and statutory planning consultee, the Council will pursue this position statement with the landowner, developers, planners, and allotment tenants.
6. The Council will take legal advice if needed and instruct legal representation should this be required.
7. The Council agrees to provide this position statement to the new owners to begin the process of negotiation and minimise uncertainty for tenants.