



1. **Name of Organisation:** Southampton Rd Allotments Association

2. **Contact Details:**

- a. Chair: Gerry Atkins.]
- b. Finance Offr: Martin Crabtree.] Email: SRAA2022@outlook.com
- c. Admin Offr: John Turley.]

3. **Details of the Application:** the SRAA allotments are sited within large fields purchased by Formula Land (Alderbury) (FL) in Oct 21; Alderbury PC holds the Licence which allows the allotments on the site. SRAA is an administrative organisation which acts on behalf of its members to manage the site, liaise with Alderbury PC, and to operate a small fund with annual income from members. This fund covers minor repairs, equipment, and other expenses such as the water supply. Recent very wet weather followed by a very cold period have severely affected the car park area on sloping grass, and the internal track passing along the centre line. Both of these areas are now considered to be dangerous, as flooding, rutting and natural landslip have eroded the original paths. The considerable water content has made the ground very slippery, and there is no effective drainage to cope with this onslaught (see photos on the final page of this document). SRAA also needs to replace its wooden noticeboard, which has suffered in poor weather; the ideal will be an aluminium frame and posts with closing doors to ensure it is weatherproof.

a. **Car Park Area.** There is an expected lengthy process by FL(A) to prepare and submit a planning application for building on a large area adjacent to the SRAA site, and a probable protracted series of exchanges with the Planning Authority before building work can start. FL(A) have promised to include a new entrance from Soton Rd, a hardened access track to the SRAA site, plus car park and turning area, in their building application. However, the car park suffers from extremely wet conditions, and has not been usable since early Autumn. With the SRAA's very busy digging and planting period just starting, with holiday periods of intensive activity, the lack of a car park will mean all cars will park on the main road, causing a serious traffic obstruction. Pending FL(A)'s work detailed above, an interim solution will be to clear approximately half of the current car park, lay a hard surface of road planings, similar to the area close to the Soton Rd gate. This is urgent given the state of the car park area, and the risk to all those using the Soton Rd if SRAA cars park along it. The quote for this work is: to supply and lay 3 x 16ton lorry loads of road planings as a hardstanding for parking **£2100.00+vat.**

b. **Internal Track.** The surface is currently rough grass, but it is very uneven, and subject to flooding from the sloping allotments above it. The grass is mown under an APC contract several times a year. The intention now is to clear the grass layer and topsoil, flatten and harden the surface, then apply a hard covering over a membrane (4 ft width) which will allow drainage, whilst maintaining a firm platform for walking, wheelbarrows and bags containing compost, bark etc. Two quotes were obtained as follows:

- i. Hurdcotts: to dig out approximately 90 metres of soil/grass path through the centre of the allotments and leave soil on site and level in the adjacent field. Supply membrane, lay type 1 hardcore and compact: **£3200.00+VAT.**
- ii. PM Services: to dig out the current path, to lay geotextile membrane and hardcore: **£2512.65+VAT.**

c. **Replacement Noticeboard.** To ensure this is protected against the frequent strong wind, a resilient base for the two poles has been recommended. Although this will increase the cost considerably, there will be a warranty against any malfunction, valid for 5 years. Advice was sought on a DIY process, but the expertise is not held by SRAA members to create concrete fittings for the posts. The quote obtained for the work is:

- i. Noticeboard materials and fittings: **£ 814+VAT.**
- ii. Installation cost: **£ 650+VAT.**
- Total: £1464+VAT.**

4. **Summary of Quotes:**

- a. **Car Park Area: £2100+VAT.**
- b. **Internal Track: £3200 or £2512.65 +VAT.**
- c. **Noticeboard: £1464+VAT.**

Total: £6764+VAT or £6076.65+VAT.

5. **SRAA Financing.** SRAA's resources cannot fund these repairs; as stated earlier, the account was created for minor expenses and utilities. The considerable deterioration in ground conditions was unexpected, and has created dangerous surfaces which require repair as soon as the selected contractor considers it feasible.

6. **Funding Request.** Alderbury PC is invited to submit these figures to the landowner FL(A) and discuss how the funding might be provided between both of them.

Photos

Car Park Area:



Internal Track:

