**Risk Assessment for the SRAA Alderbury Allotments Site (Jul 23)**

Written By: John Turley (IOSH Affiliate)

**General**

1. Risk assessments are composed of a standard codified process, which defines a particular risk as a multiple of these components:

Hazard (x) Probability (x) Impact = Risk Factor (-) mitigation

1. Assessing the severity of the risk leads to an analysis of the mitigation measures needed to reduce the potential impact as much as possible.

**Areas for Examination**

1. Within the context of the SRAA site, the following are relevant areas:
   1. The trees surrounding the SRAA site itself, within neighbouring gardens.
   2. The car park area } Both are defined on the
   3. The access track from the car park to the main gate } site plan in the Licence.
   4. The inner track.
   5. The adjacent section of Southampton Rd immediately outside and to the left/right of the entrance gate.
   6. The plots themselves.
2. Each area is described, the risk assessment is defined, and recommended mitigation measures are all shown in the following table:

**Detailed Risk assessment for the SRAA Allotments Site**

| **Area Description** | **Hazard** | **Probability** | **Impact** | **Risk Estimate** | **Mitigating Measures** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Surrounding Trees** | Falling branches or whole trees | Strong winds are endemic given climate change factor; therefore varies during the year, but very high at times | Human casualties, possibly severe, resulting in concussive & other injuries; higher if not witnessed & untreated, and therefore not given immediate medical care | Normally low, but increases greatly in high winds; some trees are very large, so higher in those areas | Avoid visits in high winds; request tree owners to prune in dormant periods; discourage sole working on site | A small tree collapsed onto the external fence in early 2023 |
| **Car Park** | Slippery and rutted in Autumn & Winter, sloping down | Climate change resulting in very long wet periods, up to 5-6 months of the year | Potential for serious injury by slipping whilst moving through, often dragging or carrying heavy loads; higher if alone and untreated casualty | Medium in benign state, but much higher if inundated by continuous rain | Improve surface with impervious covering over membrane layer | Only route to access track. Needs contractor work in dry conditions |
| **Access Track to Main Gate** | Slippery and rutted in Autumn & Winter, sloping down, limited width | Climate change resulting in very long wet periods, up to 5-6 months of the year; vehicle ruts caused by mowing machines etc | Potential for serious injury by slipping whilst moving through, often dragging or carrying heavy loads; higher if alone and untreated casualty | Medium in benign state, but much higher if inundated by continuous rain | Improve surface with impervious covering over membrane; stop mowing contract | Only route from car park to main gate; mowing not needed with new surface on track and car park |
| **Inner Track** | Slippery and rutted in Autumn & Winter, with areas of deep mud | Climate change resulting in very long wet periods, up to 5-6 months of the year; narrow track forces users onto unsafe surface | Potential for serious injury by slipping whilst moving through, often dragging or carrying heavy loads; higher if alone and untreated casualty | Medium in dry state, but much higher if inundated by continuous rain | Improve surface, level it with impervious covering over membrane | Used by all members to access plots |
| **Main Road** | Busy road due to normal traffic, including buses, but busier in rush hours due to traffic escaping congestion on A36 bypass | Varies according to day/time | When very busy, parking on road creates risk for leaving and returning to vehicle, plus traffic hazard to passing vehicles | Very high in worst conditions; local residents complain to users of severe impact to their safety | Create usable car park in all conditions; warn those parking outside to avoid obstructing view from gate for those exiting car park | With increasing numbers of new houses within the village, the situation is expected to worsen over time |
| **Plots Themselves** | Members often alone, using own self- maintained equipment; subject to medical incidents, including accidental injuries | Accidents have occurred, but rarely. May be no warning of imminent situation, could affect any member on site. Those with medical conditions have higher risk level | If alone without help, medical assistance necessary; depends on phone coverage and ability to use it. If not carrying prescribed medication, may result in more serious consequences | Varies, but worst case is high probability of casualty being unattended and unable to summon help | Members urged to carry phones plus note of any medical condition and medicine required, which should be carried (e.g. Epipen). Two first aid kits are provided. | Working alone increases risk, longer time for incident to be dealt with. Family or friend should monitor arrival and expected home return time. |