

Mill Lane allotments

Community leased allotments for growing produce & flowers

An area of land between Mill Lane and St Helen's Avenue, with housing on all sides. Access from Mill Lane and St Helen's Avenue by grassed public footpath. The primary aim of the allotments is for growing of produce by allotment holders who lease the plots annually. The public footpath and central space at the oak tree provide opportunities for informal social interaction. The flowers, hedges and trees provide nectar sources for insects and habitat & foraging for birds, small mammals, deer etc.

What You Will Find Here

- A large area of grassland divided into allotment plots of varying size, generally separated by grass paths. Sometimes demarcated by makeshift barriers and concrete paths
- A grassed public footpath runs between Mill Lane and St Helens Avenue with a gate at St Helens Avenue. The path is popular with dog walkers. (Dogs must be kept on a lead).
- Allotment plots include glass houses, fruit cages and garden sheds in various states of repair/disrepair. Some are derelict. Some plots have fruit trees.
- A mix of fencing surrounds the site and is often overgrown with scrub and ivy.
- There are a small number of uncultivated/rarely cultivated plots, despite waiting list
- A mature oak tree with daffodils and grass beneath provides a focal space. A picnic table here offers opportunities to swap produce and socialise
- Water troughs provide a water source for allotment holders.

Next Steps

- The grass footpaths are mown in summer to keep the footpath open for access
- Annual trimming of vegetation on boundaries is needed to prevent encroachment
- An allotment association should be set up to encourage adherence to lease conditions including better use/ release/sharing of underutilised plots. Would encourage produce & seed sharing/ wildlife friendly cultivation/ better management as well as strengthen the allotment community.

Technical Summary

Habitat: rough grassland, scrub and trees between cultivated plots

Recreation value: high

Management Summary

Leased as allotments and surrounded by housing. The allotments are managed by allotment holders but the footpath and public areas such as around the Oak tree provide a benefit for the wider community, for walkers, for social interaction, swapping produce etc.

The variety of flowers, fruit trees etc provide benefits for wildlife and pollinators as well as habitat for birds, small mammals and other animals.

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