Allotments Report

1. I visited the Treoes allotments on 22 March in company with Geoff Dulcis, who is now the Chair of the association and two other members.
2. As there is an existing kerb just south of the benches it would be useful to take this as the future limit of the Associations ground. It varies in distance from the wall between 22 and 30 feet but is a permanent marker. This would accord with March resolution 5 para 5 and can be seen in Photo 1
3. The first two photos show the current state of the ground not within the Associations lease and the relationship of the hedge with the Chapel wall.
4. The hedge is mostly 2.5M from the wall. As far as can be estimated from the scale drawing the hedge is not in the position approved under 2011/00301/FUL . The correct distance from the Chapel wall can be estimated as from 4 to 6M. This would place it just behind the benches.
5. It has been reduced in height from the approved 2M. and does not provide the screening it was intended to provide. If it were allowed to grow up to the planned height it would provide adequate screening where it is but to comply with the original approval it would need to be moved.
6. I believe that the two metal benches fixed to the existing concrete slabs predate the allotments. They both face south so cannot be used to sit and view the chapel.
7. Planning approval granted under 2011/0030/ful clearly stated that prior to their installation on site details of any water facilities shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. If this was not obtained at the time a retrospective application should be submitted to regularise the northern water harvesting system and the tank
8. The water butt provides easily accessible water to the raised beds used by gardeners with limited mobility. It is tucked away beside the gate and shielded on the south by the building, the east by the boundary hedge and to the north is largely concealed behind two large trees. Trellising is available to conceal it from the west. Discussion took place about the positioning of the Water harvesting tank. It is currently full and weighs 2 tons. As it harvests water from the roof of the permanent shed it must be either where it is or at the south end. To move it that far would might require a relocation of the greenhouse and would increase the distance from the raised beds. Where it is sited causes no loss of amenity to the users of the bund area or the allotments.
9. Several photographs were taken to illustrate the sort of Gazebo structure erected by individual allotment users to provide water collection roofs. They range from simple to virtually sheds. Construction materials are generally timber and plastic sheets. Some users have double plots and extensive use of raised beds. Others use the ground. It is in the nature of gardening that different methodologies will be used and should, be encouraged. In addition there is a large prefabricated building approx. 20x10 feet and a greenhouse to the north east of the plot ( a corner can be seen in both the Water tank photo and a better view in the two Overview pictures.”
10. Plans exist to improve the main water harvesting facilities at the south end of the allotments and to pipe water to all the plots individually. When this happens the need for individual water collecting will be reduced.

**Recommendation 1**

*Planning approval granted under 2011/0030/ful clearly stated that prior to their installation on site details of any water facilities shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. If this was not obtained at the time a retrospective application should be submitted to regularise the northern water harvesting system and the tank( the latter subject to recommendation 3)*

**Recommendation 2**

*This fixed boundary is agreed as the full extent of the bund from the south wall of the Chapel. The landscaping of the bund should remain largely as it is, a low maintenance hedge and lawn No benefit will be obtained by any form of additional planting or flower beds as they will only add to the maintenance requirement. Failure to maintain a more elaborate landscaping will create an eyesore. The hedge could be moved to the planned position as its original position ensured it was no threat to the wall or remain where it is and included in any retrospective planning application.*

**Reccomendation 3**

*The tank remains where it is. It is adequately screened and causes no obstruction. While it will not be obscured by the hedge at full height it is not an eyesore as it largely blends with the end of the building.A screening of trellis may be added provided it does not inconvenience users.*

**Reccomendation 4**

*When a communal watering system is introduced consideration could be given to removing the more elaborate gazebo structures and agreeing a maximum structure size per plot to provide rain shelter and seating/storage*

**Recommendation 5**

*Both the pedestrian access of the kissing gate and the machinery access field gate should be maintained by their respective tenants and available to all authorised users.*

**Recommendation 6**

*Although there is currently no electrical supply* *I would recommend that a prohibition on the use of artificial lights for propagation is included in the agreement*

Cllr David Reed

April 2018