

Annual Report - April 2026

Sadly, for the first time in many years the plots were broken into last November. Many sheds were broken into and smaller items stolen. The Trustees are taking measures to secure the plots further;

1. The vehicle gate is to be **LOCKED** between the hours of 5pm and 8am and **SHUT** between the hours of 8am and 5pm. This is mandatory. **NO** trip is quick enough to leave the gate open.
2. Plot holders who have regular *help* with their allotment, are asked to supply names and a contact number of these people and familiarise them with No 1 above. Sub-letting of plots is not permissible; plot holders are responsible for their plots and those that work on it.

The Trustees will be installing PIR lights and Wildlife cameras at points along the driveway to increase security measures. Plot holders have been advised of this.

As the deer have once again become an issue, the Trustees have acquired more fencing that will be placed around the plots where suitable fencing does not already exist.

Continued thanks to Lorraine Eve for her steady supply of horse manure.

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for further news on the Trust renting the area of land between the current plots and the A14 from Bidwells, this is despite frequent requests for updates.

It is very likely that Planning Permission will be sought for the land to the East of the plots (Heathfields). Although the allotments are not directly affected, the access to this development will be from Heathfields, just beyond the allotment vehicle entrance. The proposal is for approx. 65 properties with a rough estimate of an additional 100+ vehicles. This will more than double the number of vehicles entering Mill Close from Mill Lane and passing the allotment entrance. The last time PP was submitted for this piece of land was 1987 and was declined by Suffolk District Council for, amongst other reasons, junctions directly affected by the proposal had “sub-standard sight splays” and that the junction layout to serve the sight was “not acceptable” (this layout specifically has not changed since 1987). Speaking also to the land agents involved, they were oblivious to the fact that the allotments would border the development and had not considered the likelihood that the plots would be shaded by the proposed layout of houses.

Old and/or broken hand tools that are no longer required can still be dropped off at 38 Mill Close or plot 2, they will be passed onto the charity (TWAMS) that refurbish and repair before sending off to developing countries.

The Trustees