



**Report on Allotment Facilities for
the Parish of Colerne**

February 2020



The is currently one field ,1.1 hectares in size, allocated for allotments within the parish. This is managed by the Parish Council who rent it at a peppercorn rate of £30 per annum from the landowner (a retired farmer who has now moved away from the village).

There are 51 whole allotments, a growing number of which are now let in half plots to meet demand. All the plots are well managed and frequently attended. The annual rent for allotments is £20 for a whole plot and £10 for a half plot. At any one time there may be 2-3 vacant plots at the end of the season. These will be taken up by the spring.

The current provision is adequate for the needs of the village, but would struggle to fulfill future expectations of home food production including the rest of the parish.

The allotments are exclusively for people living within the parish. This includes a number of families from North Colerne and Thickwood, neither of which has allotments and the estate housing having relatively small gardens.

The residency of current allotment holders (2019 /20 records) are as follows:-

Colerne village.....42

Thickwood.....3

North Colerne.....6

Over the past 5 years there has been a growing number of younger families as well as retired people taking an interest in food growing. Within the village, the estates of Thickwood and the Firs have higher density housing with small gardens. Throughout the village the older terraced housing is densely built with little surrounding land for food growing.

In Thickwood, the estate houses were built for itinerant airforce personnel and therefore the gardens are minimal with emphasis on surrounding communal green spaces. These have been maintained by the existing Residents' Association but there is no provision for allotments. Were there to be sufficient demand from residents, it would be in the power of the Association to create an area for allotments within the estate or adjoining if the land was made available. This would be in keeping with the current advice for climate change provision. Ref: cse.org.uk publication: Low-carbon Neighbourhood Planning 2018.

The Housing in the remainder of Thickwood Hamlet largely has sufficient garden space to allow food production.

In North Colerne, whilst the housing may be larger, it was designed for itinerant forces families and therefore the focus is on green communal areas with small back gardens.

At such a time as new developments allow for greater connectivity within the North Colerne housing it is recommended that some of the green space within that should be set aside for allotment/community gardens, associated with communal meeting areas. Policy ref: NE3, CWBP2, our specific policy ref CWB3.