

Item 6.5

Hedgerow Working Party

The hedgerow working party was set up five or so years ago and its remit included planting an appropriate hedge line on the Northern and Southern boundaries of the Rublees Allotments, plus to fill in gaps in the west and east hedgerows of the same Allotments as well as to advise on cutting of hedges elsewhere around the Parish.

It performed its duties very well and its recommendations were followed by the then Amenities Committee very closely.

I am wondering whether members might consider reconvening a hedgerow WP ostensibly to advise on the height to be achieved and the final look to be achieved at the Rublees / MPF hedgerow.

I am certainly happy to continue with its recommendation from two years ago, providing it continues to be agreed, that the hedge is to be cut to a height of 3.5 meters with Perry Pear Trees within the hedge allowed to grow to a full height. However, some Cllrs continue to call for a height closer to 4 meters minimum and there are some allotment holders who have a plot somewhat shadowed by the hedge who would prefer it is cut closer to a height of 2 meters.

I asked Roger Brown's opinion (as he was a driving force behind the productive working party in the past) and he said as follows –

Re Hedgerow Working Party. I think this achieved its original objectives of protecting existing hedges and planting new ones around Rublees, so I would rather not convene that group in its original form. But I'd be happy to be part of a Council-led group to carry that work forward and assist in future hedge maintenance.

> Agreeing a final hedge cut height and providing a physical measure for contractors to use seems sensible.