



# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

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# Introduction

As Chairperson of Rotherham Allotments Alliance Ltd, I am pleased to welcome you to the first Annual General Meeting and thank you for reading this annual report which outlines the operational activity of the Alliance in 2020.

I would like to thank the board of directors for their commitment in managing to set up the alliance working on behalf of all allotment holders. Each director brings to the table their own skills and knowledge on our allotments should be administrated. I would also like to thank all the directors that have resigned their position but also gave hundred percent commitment to the organisation.

I would like to place on record special thanks to our administration officer, Donna Bushby. During this first year we have overcome many hurdles and have had to sort out many problems which we never expected. Without good administrative support we would not have been able to achieve what we have in the last 15 months since taking over the running of the allotments on behalf of Rotherham Council.

The pandemic has made things difficult for the Alliance and societies to meet. We should have held this Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April 2020. Unfortunately, the lockdown prevented this happening. We are still within legal guidelines of the constitution in holding this AGM at this time.

We hope that following our AGM, we are able to achieve our objectives in 2021 and make improvements to the allotment sites as planned.



Councillor Brian Steele  
Chairperson – Rotherham Allotments Alliance Ltd

# Site Statistics

## Society Sites

<u>Societies</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Plots</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Plots</u> <u>Let</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Vacant</u> <u>Plots</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Unlettable</u> <u>Plots</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Decommissioned</u> <u>Plots</u>	<u>Waitlist</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Occ</u>	<u>% Occ less unlettable / decomm</u>
Barnsley Road & Wet Moor Lane	94	88	2	2	2	25	94	98
Broom Valley New	73	72	1			1	99	99
Broom Valley Old	74	73	1			2	99	99
Clifton	133	130	2	1		5	98	98
<i>Clough Bank*</i>	66	52			14	8	79	100
Hartley Lane	73	73				6	100	100
Herringthorpe Valley Road	60	58	1		1	17	97	98
<i>Kimberworth Park*</i>	29	29				6	100	100
Queen Street North	32	32				3	100	100
Queen Street South	48	48				2	100	100
South Street	30	29			1		97	100
Vicarage Field	71	50		7	14	1	70	100
Wharf Road	20	20				6	100	100
Wood Street	35	35				21	100	100
	<b><u>838</u></b>	<b><u>789</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>	<b><u>32</u></b>	<b><u>103</u></b>	<b>94</b>	<b>lets / total plots</b>
							<b>98</b>	<b>lets / total plots - decommissioned</b>
							<b>99</b>	<b>Lets /total plots cultivatable</b>

*\*Tenant details not submitted so estimated based on recent visit*

## Site Statistics Direct-Managed Sites

<u>Direct Managed</u>	<u>Total Plots</u>	<u>Total Plots Let</u>	<u>Total Vacant Plots</u>	<u>Total Unlettable Plots</u>	<u>Total Decommissioned Plots</u>	<u>Waitlist</u>	<u>% Occ</u>	
Avenue Road	83	75	2	5	6	0	90	
Greasbrough	78	65	8	3	2	5	83	
High Street	37	31	6	0	8	8	84	
Highfield Road	5	5	0	0	0	0	100	
Lowfield Avenue	13	13	0	0	0	1	100	
Moor Road	19	16	0	3	1	3	84	
Psalters Lane	22	7	9	1	0	3	32	
Rectory Field	64	46	2	13	1	8	72	
Rosehill Park	28	28	0	0	0	18	100	
St Leonards Road	14	14	0	0	0	1	100	
<b>65 new lets done in 2020</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>lets / total plots</b>
							<b>89</b>	<b>lets / total plots - decommissioned</b>
							<b>94</b>	<b>Lets /total plots cultivatable</b>
<b>All Sites</b>	<b>1201</b>	<b>1069</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>lets / total plots</b>
							<b>93</b>	<b>lets / total plots - decommissioned</b>
							<b>96</b>	<b>Lets /total plots cultivatable</b>

# Principal Achievements and Challenges

## PRINCIPLE ACHIEVEMENTS

### New Societies

The formation of 3 new societies for 4 previously directly-managed sites (Barnsley Rd & Wet Moor Lane, Avenue Rd and Vicarage Fields). This has enabled the sites to better manage the day-to-day running of the sites and have all worked hard to get uncultivable areas back into cultivation. 2 of the 3 also have started their own on-site shops, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> site starting one next year. This has brought great benefits to the tenants on these sites.

### Website

The RAA now has a fully functioning website which contains a lot of information regarding the allotments. There are also pages that encourage tenant contribution such as a recipe page and a 'diary' of growing on an allotment plot. The plan for the website is to develop it further and add more information about what the RAA is planning for the future. There is also a Facebook page which contains the same information as the website. The Facebook page currently has 486 'followers'. Both the website and Facebook page are useful for getting information out to tenants instantly.

### Building Relationships with Tenants / Societies

The ASA has worked hard this year to build and maintain relationships with both directly-managed and society site tenants / committees. This has been valuable for the development of the Alliance in order to learn how sites operate and identify where changes/improvements are necessary. The regular availability of a dedicated contact has been beneficial for all sites when any problems have arisen or advice is needed.

### Identifying Improvements

The RAA sent out a 'wish-list' request to all society sites asking what they would like to be improved on their sites. This identified a number of areas including path/roadway improvements and addition of facilities such as compostable toilets. The RAA were then able to make a list of the work needed, making health and safety items a priority. The removal of asbestos was a big priority for most sites and this was undertaken. The biggest removal was an asbestos shed that stood on a plot on Vicarage Field site, making the plot unusable for a long time. A list of improvements on directly-managed sites was drawn up using tenant feedback and observations from site visits. This included the clearing of a fly-tipped area to create space to be used for car parking.

### Funds for Future projects

Due to limited costs in 2020 and being mindful of the budget during the first year, the RAA have been able to accumulate a surplus amount of funds which is to be used on future allotment projects, match-funding some capital expenditure and beyond.

### Collection of Rents

Despite initial problems with payment, the collection of rents has been successful due to the chase procedure carried out by the ASA. 100% of society rents have been paid and 93% of direct-managed sites equating to £669 outstanding. Overall collection stands at 98.5%. Most of the outstanding amount has either been credited, with good reason, or resulted in the termination of the tenancy. There is still a small amount that is being chased by the ASA.

## **PRINCIPAL CHALLENGES**

### Information

The ASA found that some of the information held by RMBC was out of date. Some of the maps given did not reflect the current layout of some sites/plots so were incorrect. This also related to some of the information on the management system, Colony. Tenants details were also out of date as RMBC had not been informed of the changes by the tenant, such as change of contact details or wishing to give up their plot.

### Invoice Payments

Some tenants found paying invoices difficult as the RAA does not have the same payment facilities as RMBC. This meant that some people could not pay at the Post Office. This payment method has now been resolved. Some tenants were also unable to pay via online banking as they did not use it or were reluctant to send payments this way. There were tenants who also wanted to pay by monthly payments. This was possible but they would need to set up a standing order with their bank. This was not possible for some tenants due to not having online banking and being unable to visit a bank in person due to self-isolation and branches being closed. Overall, over 97% of rental payments were submitted.

### Coronavirus Pandemic

The pandemic had both a positive and negative effect on the allotments and the RAA. During the first lockdown, the ASA was unable to visit sites due to childcare. This meant that site viewings could not be done. It also meant that the planned improvement projects had to be put on hold until government restrictions allowed for people to be able to work. Any vacant plots were left unattended which resulted in them becoming overgrown. On a positive note, people who were furloughed or those who had to work from home had more time to spend at their allotment so some sites saw a great improvement in cultivation and sites were busier than they had been for a number of years. Unfortunately, there were a small number of plot holders who were unable to visit due to self-isolation.

### Distrust of tenants / societies

The general consensus of the allotment service provided by the Authority was not particularly favourable. This opinion was unfortunately transferred to the RAA. Some tenants did not think that the RAA could make the allotments any better than the current provision based on past neglect and decline. The RAA continuously reassured any tenants who questioned this. It has been found that in some cases, the tenants who are long-standing are reluctant to change. It was found that some tenants did whatever they wanted on sites – fly-tipping on other plots and entering other gardens without permission. The RAA have worked towards reminding all tenants of what the allotment rules are.

### Difficulty with transfer of utilities/contracts

Due to the way the water bills have been set up with RMBC, the ASA found it difficult to obtain information regarding water charges. The sites with water were supposed to be transferred to the RAA but this was not the case. This caused a delay in calculating water charges to go on rental invoices, thus invoices going out later than planned.

The grounds maintenance contract with RMBC was continued for 2020 as finding another contractor wasn't possible due to covid. Taking on this contract identified that the work done was not done to a high standard and sites / tenants reported that this has been the case for some time. This issue has been raised with the relevant Officers.

### Communication

Communication from tenants has been difficult. There is a lot of 'hearsay' on the sites and messages get passed round between tenants. Rather than contacting the RAA direct, they choose to listen to others who may not necessarily have the correct information.

# Summary of Work Completed

<u>Site</u>	<u>Work Completed</u>
Avenue Road	Clearance of derelict areas to put back into cultivation  Clearance of parking area to create more parking space
High Street	Clearance of Fly-tipped areas  Clearance and rotivation of plots  Repair of damaged water pipe
Barnsley Road	Removal of 25 fridge carcasses used as raised beds left by a past tenant
Herringthorpe Valley Road	Repair of damaged water pipe
Greasbrough	Leak detection survey and repair of 3 water leaks onsite  Repair of vandalised gate lock
Vicarage Field	Removal of asbestos garage
Various sites	Removal of asbestos

<u>Skips provided to:</u>	
Vicarage Fields	Greasbrough
Kimberworth Park	Broom Valley Old
Queen Street South	Clough Bank
Avenue Road	Moor Road
Barnsley Road	Wharf Road

# Complaints Summary

<u>REPORTED BY</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>ISSUE / COMPLAINT</u>
Site Secretary	Clifton	Asbestos on site
Tenant	Rectory Field	Site not secure due to gap in fence and neighbouring gate being secured by a tie-wrap
Tenant	Greasbrough	Shed set on fire on site – gate lock had to be cut off
Resident	Lowfield Ave	Vine from site encroaching into resident's garden on covering their shed roof
Tenant	Greasbrough	Tenant wanted to move plots due to intimidation from other tenants
Secretary	Clifton	Tenant trespassing on plots and questioning tenants about not following procedures
Resident	High Street	Bonfires causing nuisance to nearby residents
Resident	Broom Valley New	Trees at the back of site growing into resident garden
Resident	Broom Valley New	Resident complained that tenants are intimidating them. Had work done on house which spilled into allotment which the tenant was not happy about
Resident	Rectory Field	Cockerel Noise Nuisance
Resident	Psalters Lane	Bonfire nuisance
Tenant	Clifton	Concern about new secretary being appointed without a site meeting and also someone deliberately putting nails in people's tyres on car park.
Resident	Psalters Lane	Bonfire nuisance complaint
Resident	Vicarage Fields	Brambles growing through fence blocking off access to back of houses – tenants have thrown brambles into the alleyway.
Tenant	Greasbrough	Shed been burnt down – arson – 2 <sup>nd</sup> time this year – thinks being targeted
Tenant	High Street	Other tenants dumping rubbish at the end of his plot where rubbish from his plot is currently sitting
Not specified	Greasbrough	Tenants having parties and smoking cannabis
Resident	Rosehill Park	Bushes / brambles growing into resident's garden
Tenant	High Street	Found used needles on plot
RMBC Enforcement	Rosehill Park	Complaint been sent to RMBC regarding fire and noise nuisance from the site (nothing reported to the RAA)
Tenant	Clifton	Concerns about the way the society / site is being run
Tenant	Moor Rd	Flooding on plot – fruit trees ruined and attracting mosquitos
Resident	Rectory Field	Cockerel is still causing noise nuisance.
Tenant	Greasbrough	People who have been using plot 45 to store scrap metal have cut the lock off / damaged gate to gain access.
Resident	Clough Bank	Overgrown trees on allotment have brought down a boundary fence
Resident	Rectory Field	Seen rats in her garden, coming from allotments
Site Secretary	Queen Street North	Site has been broken into – number of gardens / sheds been damaged.
Tenant	Avenue Rd	Tenant using plot to store scrap metal
Tenant	South Street	Small section of fence missing allowing access from outside
Site Secretary	Herringthorpe Valley Rd	Tenant has been digging up a dockleaf and damaged a waterpipe
Resident	Rosehill Park	Tree/bush with sharp spikes is growing through fence.
Site Secretary	Queen St South	Tenant's husband is removing items from a soon-to-be vacated plot and leaving it in a mess.
Tenant	High Street	2 break-ins. Pigeons been stolen and lock cut off plot.
Tenant	St Leonard's	Car park is overgrown and needs attention
Site Secretary	Barnsley Rd	People getting onto site over the wall where the building has been knocked down.
Resident	Greasbrough Scrooby St	Complaint about fires – black smoke.
Resident	Psalters Lane	Rat problem on site



# Directors Attendance

Directors: Chair – Councillor Brian Steele  
 Secretary – Jack Taylor  
 Treasurer – Al Dean  
 Vice Chair – John Palmer  
 Mohammed Suleman  
 Mick Hirst  
 Councillor Emma Hoddinott

	Cllr Brian Steele	John Palmer	Jack Taylor	Al Dean	Mohammed	Cllr Emma Hoddinott	Mick Hirst	John Callaghan	Mike Farrell
06.01.20	1	1	1	1	1				1
20.01.20	1	1	1	1	1				1
03.02.20	1	1	1	1	1				1
17.02.20	1	1		1	1	1			1
16.03.20	1	1		1	1	1			
Break in meetings due to covid – following meetings taken place on Zoom									
11.05.20	1	1		1					1
26.05.20	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
08.06.20	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
22.06.20	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
06.07.20	1	1	1	1			1	1	
20.07.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
03.08.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
07.09.20	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	
28.09.20		1	1	1	1		1	1	
12.10.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
26.10.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
09.11.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
23.11.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
07.12.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
21.12.20	1	1	1	1	1		1		
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>% Attendance</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>89</b>

# Policy Review and Amendments

The Board of Directors have reviewed the current policies and have proposed the following amendments:

## **Tenancy Agreement:**

New clause to be added to give new tenants a probationary period – the following proposed as new clause 3.1 – (current clauses 3.1 to 3.3 to be renumbered 3.2 to 3.4).

Add new clause as 9 Transfer of tenancy – (current clauses 9 to 11 be renumbered 10 to 12).

## **Allotment Rules:**

2.1 – Insert new clause regarding perimeter fences.

9.1 – Confirming a specified size for buildings in the existing clause.

## **Code of Conduct:**

Directors details amended.

Section 3 – clause added regarding director intentions if meetings are missed without notification.

## **Financial regulations:**

Section D – Buying Good and Services – obtaining quotes of over £500 from 3 sources added.

I -Insurance – this section will be updated once the legal process is finalised.

Section to cover Internet banking protocol to be added once the facility is fully confirmed with Co-Operative Bank.

## **Standing Orders:**

15 – Proper Officer confirmation – this has been amended to state the ASA as the Proper Officer.

16 – Proper Financial Officer confirmation – this has been amended to state the ASA as the Proper Financial Officer.

16C – Finance – The RAA Financial regulations should also be considered in relation to the financial controls and management of the Alliance has been added.

18 – Staff Handling Matters – added policy on the employment and line management of the ASA.

These can all be found on the website for your perusal.

# Future Plans

The table below summarises the work required as identified on each site by asking for 'wish lists' and visiting the sites. The RAA endeavours to carry out all required works, where appropriate, using the capital expenditure budget, rental revenue and sourcing outside funding. Other areas of improvement for all sites include water conservation, increased security and re-instating of unlettable plots. Better site management in terms of grass/hedge cutting, waste removal and pest control will also be considered.

<p><b><u>Avenue Rd</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track / Path improvement</li> <li>Barrier</li> <li>Tree removal</li> <li>Clubhouse / toilet block</li> <li>Water supply</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Barnsley Rd &amp; Wet Moor Lane</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track / Path improvement</li> <li>Notice boards</li> <li>Change uncultivable plot to storage area</li> <li>Compostable toilet</li> <li>Pipe / tap replacement</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Vicarage Fields</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turning circle at bottom of site</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Broom Valley Old</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path from top to bottom of site, and top gate (visually impaired tenants)</li> <li>Path at bottom entrance of site</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Broom Valley New</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve car parking area</li> <li>Clear 'market garden' area and put into use</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Clifton</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace parts of missing fence</li> <li>Top Path improvement</li> <li>Clear unusable area</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Clough Bank</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put area of site back into cultivation</li> <li>Car parking area</li> <li>Pathway improvement</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Hartley Lane</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be decided</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Herringthorpe Valley Rd</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path from top to bottom of site</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Kimberworth Park</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be decided</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Queen Street North</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be decided</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Queen Street South</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgraded perimeter fence that borders Queen Street</li> <li>Clear overgrown plots</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Wood Street</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Piped water</li> <li>Secure fencing on the end plots</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>South Street</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace asbestos roof on garage</li> <li>Replace 8 rotting wooden shed doors</li> <li>Clear area inside of gate for car park</li> <li>Make presentable unoccupied plots</li> <li>Remove rubbish end of drive</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Wharf Road</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water on site</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Greasbrough Scrooby St</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncultivable plots put back into use</li> <li>Notice board(s)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>High Street</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park creation</li> <li>Track / Path improvement</li> <li>Uncultivable plots put back into use</li> <li>Notice board</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Highfield Road – needs visiting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fence to residential boundary</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Lowfield Avenue</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vine removal / creation of plot</li> <li>Notice board</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>High Street</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park creation</li> <li>Track / Path improvement</li> <li>Uncultivable plots put back into use</li> <li>Notice board</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Psalters Lane</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fence around top end to prevent access for fly-tipping Plots put back into use – trimmed /rotavated / Rubbish removed</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Rectory Field</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plots put back into use – trimmed /rotavated / Rubbish removed</li> <li>Car park / drive surfacing</li> <li>Notice board(s)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Moor Road</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage works to alleviate flooding</li> <li>Plots put back into use</li> <li>Path/entrance levelling / hardcore</li> <li>Notice board</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Rosehill Park</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice board</li> </ul>
		<p><b><u>St Leonard's Road</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice board</li> </ul>

# Finance Report

## INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - For the period from Inception 8.11.19 to 31.12.2020. (unaudited)

Information	Money out £	Money in £	Balance £
New Account 8.11.2019 Inception.			£ -
RMBC Capital transfers		£ 22,991.83	
Sandymount	£ 1,552.86		
ASA	£ 15,503.23		
Rents received		£ 47,797.47	
returned	£ 66.26		
discount	£ 509.59		
Royal Mail PO Box 819. x 2	£ 547.50		
Parker Rhodes Hickmott - Solicitors fees deposit	£ 1,000.00		
GET Services Website	£ 1,000.00		
Colony	£ 1,454.92		
NSALG 2021 Subscription	£ 66.00		
ZOOM	£ 57.56		
Domain renewal	£ 14.39		
Microsoft	£ 45.12		
Intuit	£ 177.60		
Telephone & insurance (Tesco)	£ 269.78		
<b>Office Costs</b> ASA			
Stationery & office equipment			
incl Computer battery	£ 1,035.93		
HP Laser Printer	£ 210.83		
Postage Stamps	£ 825.00		
Pettycash & sundries	£ 157.52		
Security 2 x CCTV cameras	£ 191.50		
Skips TKL x 9	£ 1,755.00		
Coral Design logo signs	£ 40.00		
Business Stream Water Scrooby	£ 654.89		
JT Sundry purchase. Padlock keys. Scrooby & High St	£ 158.70		
Information Commissioner x 2 registration	£ 80.00		
GMS Services. 2 x strim & rotavate, Rawmarsh	£ 240.00		
Stansfield Rawmarsh	£ 62.00		
S&R Services Avenue Road	£ 5,400.00		
Parkway Sheet Metal Gate @ Scrooby	£ 72.00		
L&N Waste High Steet	£ 1,200.00		
Aquaforce Scrooby	£ 180.00		
Pest Control Rosehill wasp nest	£ 49.00		
<b>Balance c/f 31.12.2020</b>			<b>£ 36,212.12</b>
	<b>£ 34,577.18</b>	<b>£ 70,789.30</b>	

Please note that these accounts are currently not audited due to delays relating to covid. The audited account and statement will be distributed before the AGM.

# Capital Expenditure

The Alliance was granted £100k capital expenditure to be spent on allotment improvements in 2020/2021. The following table outlines what has already been spent.

Site	Company	Job	Net Cost	VAT	Total Cost
Various	Rhodes Asbestos	Asbestos removal	£ 5,620.00	£ 1,124.00	£ 6,744.00
Hartley Lane	KCM	Skips for polytunnel removal	£ 812.50	£ 162.50	£ 975.00
N/A	GET Internet	Website design	£ 1,000.00		£ 1,000.00
N/A	Printerland.co.uk	Printer for ASA	£ 210.83		£ 210.83
Avenue Road	S & R Services	Plot clearance / car park improvements	£ 5,400.00		£ 5,400.00
High Street	L & N Waste	Remove waste from top & bottom areas	£ 1,200.00		£ 1,200.00
Clifton	Parkway Sheet Metal	Install fencing	£ 2,680.00	£ 536.00	£ 3,216.00
Greasbrough	Lightmain	Fencing to correct encroachment	£ 3,765.00	£ 753.00	£ 4,518.00
High Street	Parkway Sheet Metal	Perimeter fencing	£ 3,105.00	£ 621.00	£ 3,726.00
			<b>£ 23,793.33</b>	<b>£ 3,196.50</b>	<b>£ 26,989.83</b>
			<b>£ 76,206.67</b>	<b>REMAINING BALANCE TO BE SPENT</b>	

# Summary

In summary, the first year of operation for the RAA has been difficult for a number of reasons. The covid-19 pandemic severely affected progress on site improvements due to lockdown restrictions. Board meetings had to be paused until the online facility Zoom was set up. Zoom has enabled the Board to still meet regularly and conduct business where possible. The transfer process hasn't always been smooth and there have been a number of obstacles to overcome.

Not being able to have meetings with tenants onsite has meant that the RAA has been unable to form relationships with some tenants but luckily there has been a number of tenants across most sites who have actively worked with the RAA during the year to help solve issues etc. This is much appreciated as the Alliance has been able to gain valuable knowledge about sites and how they operate.

From a financial point of view, the Alliance is in a very positive position having retained more surplus funds than expected. These funds can now be spent on projects on sites, alongside the Capital Expenditure work that has been planned. Research into outside funding streams has also been carried out so this can be considered.

Overall, 2021 should be a more productive year but there is a lot of work to do. The RAA will be working towards completing site improvements, establishing maintenance contracts and looking at other areas of improvement. Another focus will be utilising social media more, promoting what the allotments have to offer and therefore increasing interest and plot occupancy.

We also want to engage with tenants and societies more to ensure they are getting the best possible service. This will be looking at introducing new societies and re-instating them where possible.