

SLOUGH ALLOTMENT FEDERATION

M4 J3-12 – MYRKE ALLOTMENTS

UNIQUE REF NO: M4312-S57045

ACQUISITION OF PLOTS:

Highways England have confirmed by email 30th October 2015 from Chris Tooth, Mouchel PM that the planned area to be taken over has been reduced to c.1/3 of the original area, specifically 5 plots numbered 25-29. Part of plots 25 and 29 will be excluded. We very much welcome this development and will seek compensation for affected tenants through the DVS.

We seek clarification on how the plots will be returned. Allotment holders spend a considerable amount of time improving their soil structure. It was indicated at the Site Inspection Meeting that topsoil from the plots will be scraped back and held within the compound area during the works and then replaced before the plot is returned to the tenant. Please could this be confirmed.

NOISE REDUCING FENCING:

Many tenants consider their allotment as a way of life and some spend many hours every day on their plot. The site is already a very noisy environment for all tenants but especially for the 60 with plots that directly border the motorway. Currently we have a standard fence and a thin strip of vegetation separating the allotments from the hard shoulder. There are currently no plans to upgrade this fencing.

We understand that the low-noise surfacing will help reduce noise however, it is our view that now the hard shoulder will become a lane of fast moving traffic, allotment tenants will experience a significant increase in noise disturbance.

In addition, part of the strip of vegetation will be permanently lost, forming the Emergency Refuge Area which will result in additional noise in that area. Other areas of vegetation will be removed for the works and replanted which until fully grown will also result in increased noise levels.

We would ask that consideration be given to erect a taller noise reducing boundary. This would also potentially improve air quality on the site which is an additional issue for growers.

We also seek reassurance on a safety issue - what will be in place to prevent vehicles breaking through the fence onto the allotment site in the event of an accident?

ACCESS TO THE SITE DURING THE WORKS:

Access to the site for all vehicles - including HGV's – will be need to be maintained throughout the works apart from temporary short duration closures and we ask that these temporary closures are notified in advance to all tenants. It was mentioned during the site Inspection visit that this was agreed; please could this be confirmed.

Carrie Darby

Chairman

Slough Allotment Federation

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Carrie Darby

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