



# Andover Town Council

To **consider** actions to take with reference to water troughs at Ox Drive.

Item No.  
**11**

**Produced for:** Allotments Committee

**By:** Town Clerk

**Date of Report:** 10 Apr 2024

## Background:

The Ox Drive allotment site has two water troughs instead of taps around the site. One is near the top of the site, and the other at the bottom.



- Neither trough has an outlet tap to allow the water to be drained.
- Both troughs have a large amount of bird faeces in the bottom which needs to be removed.
- Officers will purchase PPE and the equipment required to empty and clean the troughs but will not be carrying out the task themselves.
- A contractor will be approached and asked to quote for cleaning, but will need to know how often this should be done.
- Councillors to advise frequency of cleaning so that officers may proceed.

## For Council Consideration:

- A. To **consider and approve** a frequency for cleaning the water troughs in the short term.
- B. To **consider** if quotations for replacing the water troughs with taps should be investigated.

## Considerations:

### Standing Water troughs can contain diseases:

- *L. pneumonophila*, which leads to a type of pneumonia known as legionnaires disease. The latter form occurs naturally at low levels in watercourses but can multiply in standing water to potentially harmful levels when the water temperature is between 20°C to 45°C.
- Weil's disease (*Leptospirosis*): this is a disease humans can catch from rats through water or wet vegetation contaminated with rat urine. Rats also transmit salmonella.

Extracts from RHS.org:

### **Minimising the risks - Here are some simple precautions to take;**

- Empty the water out of garden hoses after use and do not leave full hoses in the sun after use.
- Avoid splashing water around when watering pots.
- Keep water storage containers such as tanks and butts clean by emptying and scrubbing.
- If the temperature of stored water for use in mist irrigation or sprinklers is above 20°C, do not use.
- Protect from water-borne diseases such as Weil's disease by wearing waterproof gloves.
- Always wash your hands after gardening and especially before eating.