**Chair's Report for Rowhedge Allotments Association AGM**

This year has been one of significant change for Rowhedge Allotments Association, with several longstanding committee members retiring. Their hard work over many years has been invaluable, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them. Despite their departure, they leave us in a strong position, especially following the purchase of the field from Cadman’s by EDPC. This acquisition secures the future of our allotments for many years to come and will enable us to increase the number of plots over the next year.

In response to the damage sustained in 2022, the committee installed CCTV cameras and signage in April 2023 to deter vandals. I am pleased to report that no serious damage has occurred this year.

In January, we conducted a survey to gather members' opinions on the use of the newly extended land. The survey results will be presented to EDPC, and we aim to implement, with the approval of the parish council, several of the suggested ideas. These include creating a communal orchard area with fruit trees, a wild nature area, a pond, a composting toilet, additional secure storage (a second container), and an area for bee hives.

Rowhedge Allotments is a membership association, and the committee acts on your behalf. Later in the meeting, we will discuss a few matters of importance to all members. We are eager to hear your views on how the committee should address these issues.

Thank you