

Allotment Advisory Group – Progress Report – January 2023

Produced by Mark Burgess

New Advisory Group - The first meeting of the new Allotment Advisory Group took place on the 12th January 2023. The group members are now Mark Burgess (Chair), Rosie Surridge, Pauline Butcher, Debbie Leighton and Caroline Underwood (Representative from the Parish Council).

Issues discussed were: -

Right side hedge height - The hedge on the right-hand side of the site is considered to be getting too close to the electric overhead cables and requires cutting back. This has been reported to the Landlords agents, Savills, and we are waiting for a response.

Plot allocation – At the moment there are only three vacant plots, plots 23, 41 and 15b. We have one person requesting a ½ plot but we are waiting for them to return registration details. Plot 23 will be split into two ½ plots 23a and 23b. 23a will become a community plot managed by a group of volunteers growing vegetables to be donated to the local Food Bank. The remaining plots will be allocated to newcomers.

Plot inspection – A plot inspection was conducted on Monday 8th January 2023. In general, most plots were showing signs that weeds were establishing themselves. It was agreed that a general note in the newsletter to encourage owners to attend their allotments and get on top of weeds would be more effective than sending out individual notes. Since the newsletter was published there has been a lot of activity at the allotments and many of them are now in good order. Those which remain unattended will be picked up in the next plot inspection and plot holders notified accordingly.

A1 end seating area - There is a piece of land, not big enough to be a plot, which has become a dumping ground. The decision is to convert this into a grassed seating area for people at the far end of the allotments. A party of volunteers is required to help clear the area, which should only take one Saturday afternoon. A note has been placed in the last newsletter and on Facebook calling for support.

Fred Day's plaque - It was agreed to put an article in the next newsletter informing everyone where the plaque is and why it was placed there.

Damage to fence at A1 end. - During work to the electricity pole at the end of the allotment, outside our boundary, damage to the fence has occurred and a red power cable has been left of Plot 23b. The work to the power pole is to provide power to a new Industrial Unit site further up the A1 nearer to the A14. The responsibility for the damage to the boundary fence is believed to be the Developers appointed contractor. A temporary wire framed fence panel has been placed at the boundary of the allotments protecting the allotments from access from the A1 end. We are hoping this is a temporary solution and that the boundary fence will be properly reinstated.