

The Allotment Working Party Proposals

The Working Party has done considerable amount of research in order to try and reconcile the regulations of our Tenancy Agreement with Wigan and also identify the most up to date Regulations recommended by the National Allotment Society.

Some of the work is still on-going. Eileen is collating information and regulation on a variety of allotment protocol issues. A document covering these issues will be put before the PC later in the year.

However there are a few proposals which, if the PC agrees, can be implemented immediately. These are listed below.

1.Locked Gate Facility:

The Wigan Lease document requires allotment gates to be locked at night. At present there is no facility for this.

The existing gate at Forest Fold has been examined and is still viable.

The Working Party is aware that a locking system has been tried in the past and has failed.. for various reasons. However, recent thefts from the site suggest that we should re-introduce a security facility. **The Parish Council will then be compliant with its Tenancy Agreement with Wigan.**

Proposal : that a combination lock be bought and tenants be made aware of the relevant combination in the next letter sent out by the clerk.

2.One allotment per Couple rule.

The Wigan Lease and the NAS state that only one allotment tenancy should be issued to couples who live at the same address. This rule applies only when there are people still requiring allotments on the waiting lists . The WP feel that we should as a PC comply with the general ruling.However we also feel that existing double tenancies should be upheld.

Proposal: that this rule should be included in our Tenancy Rule Book.

3.Insurance:

The NAS and our Wigan Lease recommend that allotment holders should be aware of the importance of insuring themselves and their on site equipment and should be aware of their safety responsibility to any family or visitors on the allotment site.

Proposal:

A)That information re Insurance should be clearly stated in the next letter to Allotment Holders.

B)That members are made aware that very reasonable insurance cover is available via the Garden Club on payment of the the annual membership fee. Presently (£10 per annum).

4. Charges for Raised Bed Allotments : the cost of maintenance of raised bed allotments is considerably higher than that of other allotments.

We think that £2.50 per raised bed is not an exorbitant charge. (most RB holders are allotted two beds A fee of £5.00)we also suggest that the fee should be paid within the same time limit expected of other allotment holders.

Proposal:

An annual fee of £2.50 per single raised bed allotment is charged . Where two raised bed allotments are held the cost will be £5.00 and the fee should be subject to the same payment time limit as for main site allotments.

5.Tenants Association

There are a number of ways in which a Tenancy Association could be useful to PC and allotment holders.

Proposal: that a note should go to Allotment Holders to establish the interest that may exist for the setting up of a Tenants Association (terms of reference to be agreed with allotment holders and PC. Tick box responses to the Clerk along with fees.)

6. Plot Numbering

Wigan and NAS recommend that allotments should be clearly numbered . It is the responsibility of the PC to provide numbers. This system once existed at FF.

Proposal : that Wooden plaques with painted numbers be issued either attached to sheds or to some other allotment feature.

7.Proposal: Councillor Chris Horridge's diagram , including plot 30 will be the official accepted diagram.

8. Proposal : the Tenancy Agreement will now state that Shaun Boyle is the link to Krystyna / PC.

Important notice. Last month's Newsletter contained an article asking residents to indicate if they were interested in Raised Bed Allotments. The contact for responses was Shaun Boyle .Unfortunately the telephone number for Shaun Boyle was printed with a number missing. We suggest that the article be repeated in the next newsletter. With of course the complete contact number?

I would like to thank those who have worked so hard on the Allotments Working Party for their efforts so far!

Ira Whiteley