

The allotments have been very busy since the start of the Covid -19 restrictions. It was a benefit that access to allotments was a 'permitted' activity and there are 5 new allotment tenants taking plots since March.

Signs regarding Government guidance and restrictions have been kept up to date and the request from ESFRS for no bonfires has also been advertised.

2 tenants had advised that they would not be able to cultivate their plot due to shielding but these tenants are now either back on their plot or will be very soon.

With the pandemic lockdown the inspection due for March was cancelled but Stephen and I visited each site last week, to support social distancing the SAA reps were not expected to attend although Trevor did join us at Virgins Croft. In general all sites are looking very good which was very reassuring.

There have been some changes to the officers of the SAA as Jacqui has resigned as Secretary. Helen Hyde is the new secretary. The Committee are due to meet on 30th July so their report may be elsewhere on the agenda.

Several tenants have erected stock fences around the plots to protect the produce from wildlife. Whilst consent is sought it would be helpful to make a stipulation that tenants must maintain both sides of the fencing at their plot as grounds staff cannot mow up to or strim these edges without either risking damage to the strimmers or the fence wires.

Request - Please can members consider this stipulation.

Cherry Gardens –

No vacancies and a waiting list of 7 persons.

1 plot has been neglected during the season and no response to emails has been received. Further attempts will be made to contact the tenant but it is not felt the tenancy should be renewed in September.

Netherfield Hill –

No vacancies.

Permission has been given for stock fences to protect produce following a visit by deer.

The land owner of the development land adjacent to the plots has been contacted with a request that the vegetation be cut to prevent weeds becoming a problem.

An enquiry was also made in relation to the possibility of a water supply for the allotments when any development takes place but no response has been received.

Virgins Croft –

2 new tenants have taken plots since March. The last of the taster area has just been taken.

There is 1 vacant plot but this is along the fence line with considerable tree shade. Steve will cut back tree growth to clear some overhang. It has been vacant for several years and could take some time to bring to a cultivatable condition.

Request – Could this plot be agreed for small plots should any further requests be received?

Watch Oak –

6 vacant plots plus all taster plots.

One vacant plot is 358 sqm in size which is a very large area. It is felt prospective tenants are put off by the size and as this is in the middle it is in prominent view.

Request – Could this plot be split into 2 with a clear boundary marker laid?

2 plots have been neglected due to tenants shielding/poor health. 1 tenant has advised they will be back on site very soon. The second will relinquish their plot in September but will be bringing the plot back to a cultivatable condition before leaving.

3 new tenants have taken plots since March.

The allotment tenants have fitted their own locks to the side gates, details have been passed to staff so access can still be made.

There is some overhang from adjoining land, Steve could cut this back from the allotment side.

Request – should RDC be contacted and tree works requested?

JdG

28/07/2020

SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPH

Overhanging tree at Watch oak site – plot has been neglected due to Covid but will be being cultivated soon.

