

Allotment report for Environment Committee meeting 22 October 2019

Annual renewal letters have been sent and payments are arriving.

Cherry Gardens is now full and a waiting list will be held for further enquiries received. The thought to convert plot 2b to taster plots has been put on hold for now.

Enquiries were made to other allotment sites in the area regarding waiting lists and these are held on a first come first served basis. If an offer is made and not accepted the next person on the list is offered the plot. The first person would remain 1st on the list for the next available plot.

Hastings have waiting lists which can vary from 1 to 5 years to wait. Enquiries were made with regard to travelling distances and other allotment associations reported they did not feel people will travel beyond their home district for a plot and would rather wait. Most local association run sites have vacancies or short waiting lists.

Notes from allotment inspection –

Allotment inspection report 4 September 2019

The allotments were inspected by JdG, Cllr Bernard Brown & SC with a representative from the SAA at some sites

Cherry Gardens – SAA represented by Anne Gavin

The site is generally looking good & there are 2 vacancies.

From the inspection 2 tenants will not be offered renewal.
4 letters will be sent requesting attention to weed growth.

It was suggested plot 2b be made into taster plots for this site. Once annual renewals are known a final decision will be made.

Steve will attend to the boundary hedges as part of the annual maintenance for the site.

Netherfield Hill – SAA represented by Fern Burgess

No current vacancies.

2 plots, with the same tenant, are in a deteriorating condition and it will be suggested that only 1 plot be renewed.

The condition of the development land at Netherfield has been raised as a concern by tenants as the area has not been cut all year. JdG agreed to write to Optivo.

Virgins Croft

The site continues to look good with 1 plot vacancy and 1 taster plot vacant.

At the previous inspection it was suggested a plot be reduced to allow the tenant to continue following a period of poor health. This has been accepted and SC will split the plot into 2 smaller plots.

SC will attend to the boundary hedges in line with the annual maintenance schedule.

Watch Oak – SAA represented by Christine Coleman and Jacqui Post

Since the last inspection some tenants have relinquished their plots this has led to 9 current vacancies.

The newly adopted chicken policy has been issued to the plot with a chicken coup. Concerns were noted regarding the condition of the run and the chickens. A letter will be sent with the renewal notice requesting the birds welfare is reviewed.

A plot has been identified for taster plots and SC will arrange for the plot to be marked.

Council have agreed that BTC ground staff can assist with erecting the new community shed.

There are several plots that require significant work, including removing a shed which is becoming dangerous, on some vacant plots.

SC will schedule this work along with the routine boundary maintenance.

ATC 17/10/19