

## Allotment inspection report May 2018

### **Cherry Gardens** GF, KHarmer, AGavin, MD, JdG

There are currently 2 empty plots. Although 1 has an expression of interest but is being considered.

On the whole, most plots are in an acceptable condition. Most tenants who had been contacted at the last inspection have carried out necessary works.

7 plots have been issued with letters regarding the condition of their plot, 1 letter was a notice of intended withdrawal of tenancy if no improvement within 1 month.

1 plot has installed a bee hive. This has been installed without the consent of the Council. A letter has been written asking they comply with the Bee Keeping Policy within 30 days.

During the inspection it was asked if the oak tree by plots 20/15b could be crowned as this does create a significant amount of shade and seedlings.

There are still plans to cut back trees and vegetation on the boundary with Little park Farm once the crop has been gathered.

### **Netherfield Hill** MD, JB, FBurgess JdG

All plots in a cultivated condition.

Michael has built communal compost bays on the site of plot 7 (unused plot).

A discussion has started regarding a possible water supply when the planned development goes ahead. Fern has been asking tenants when she has seen them and 2 have said a water supply would be appreciated.

### **Virgins Croft** MD, DF, THenning, JdG

3 vacant plots.

1 taster plot is in use, this is a tenant who moved from another allotment site

Most plots are in a cultivated condition 1 plot has been asked to undertake weed control. 2 plots have had letters asking for significant improvement. 1 plot had been asked to remove a rusty water container which could present a health & safety hazard.

There are 2 entrances from properties in Virgin's Croft onto the allotment site. 2<sup>nd</sup> letters have now been sent asking these be removed and boarded appropriately or the Council will seek to undertake this work.

Michael has completed digging our brambles from along the boundary with 2 properties on Virgin's Lane. The resident's permission was sought.

### **Watch Oak** GF, CColeman, MD, JdG

8 vacant plots although a suggestion was made to grass over 2 plots to save unnecessary maintenance costs.

Most plots in a cultivated condition. 2 plot required a letter to ask the tenants to undertake weed control. 2 plots have been issued with letters stating termination of tenancy will be issued if no significant improvement seen within 30 days.

2 tenants have advised the Council that they have undergone surgery and requested this be taken into consideration at the inspection. No issues were evident at the inspection.

A request has been received for a bee hive to be placed on a plot. This would be a new tenant so no action has been taken to issue an agreement until the consultation is completed.

2 tenants have contacted the office to enquire regarding the bee notices. 1 tenent has no issue as they are at the opposite end of the site. The other has requested we do not allow the bees due to a significant bee sting allergy.

**Action:** Message to be sent to any tenant with chickens advising they are responsible for keeping any rat concerns at bay.

**Other comments:**

At a recent SAA meeting a request was made for steps to be installed at Watch Oak to make the entrance less steep. The exact area for the steps was not clear and Anne Gavin agreed to obtain further details.

In general the allotment sites are looking good and there is a positive attitude from tenants regarding the maintenance.

Jane de Garston

(t) Deputy Town Clerk