

Minutes of the Haringey Allotments Forum – 12 July 2014

Present Alexandra Palace (Alison Liney **Minutes**, Sally Chubb); Creighton Avenue (Lindy Berkman, Guy Christianson); Courtman Road (Olafemi Lodge); Elmar Road (Helen Steel); Golf Course (Clare Winstanley, Jeff Cloke); Highgate (Karen Fitzsimon); Marsh Lane (Larry Campbell, Jane Anderson); Risley Avenue (Lyn Silver-Markell); Shepherds Hill (Kathy Riddle, Gepke Warham); Wolves Lane (Iain Drury – **Chair**, Gina Webster, Kate Wilkinson, Tony Wilkinson);

Apologies Tim Hunt (Golf Course), Nick Vosper (Fortis Green), Alex Fraser (Arboricultural and Allotments Manager)

- Iain explained that Alex could not make the meeting at very short notice and that all the Allotments Officers were busy or otherwise engaged.

Minutes of the 11 January 2014 Meeting

- Accepted as correct

Allotment Action Plan

- Rectory Farm – unfortunately the new site committee has imploded and Clare Pappalardo is visiting the site tomorrow to attempt to resolve the current difficulties.
- New Management Software – it has still not been introduced. All Site Secretaries present gave examples of the problems created by the existing management system, in particular new tenancies and amendments to site lists. Forum Steering Group to discuss with Alex and, if necessary, raise with the new Cabinet Member if problems persist.
- 2014 Bills – generally agreed to be a fiasco. The list of non payers promised in April was not sent to Site Secretaries except Wolves Lane and that proved to be incomplete. The final lists of termination notices issued for non payment were not accurate.
- Water infrastructure – general concerns about (a) how the proposed removal of hose union taps under the 1999 Water Regulations would unfairly impact on tenants with mobility issues and (b) the procurement process under which H2O was commissioned to prepare the report on compliance with the 1999 Water regulations. Generally felt that the report was a tender for work rather than an objective survey.
It was noted that the National Allotment Society (NAS) in co-operation with the Water Regulation Advisory Service (WRAS) are in the process of drawing up national guidance for local authorities on how to comply with the 1999 Water Regulations. Haringey has been advised to await the publication of the guidance note before taking any action to comply with the 1999 Water regulations on its allotment sites. Forum Steering Group to ensure that Alex consults the Forum before taking any further actions.
- Capital Bid – general concern that we could lose the agreed £70,000 capital budget if a decision on any corrective works to the water supply fittings is delayed until late in the year. Forum Steering Group to review the list of priority asset works and push for the capital budget to be spent on these works rather than be lost because of any delay in making a decision in respect of the water supply fittings.

Proposed partial bonfire ban

- An amended letter has now been issued to all tenants. The meeting regretted that the initial letter had been composed without consultation and that no translations were available. Laminated notices for site notice boards were made available at the meeting but it was noted that these did not list contact numbers for the reporting of bonfires. Forum Steering Group to take up with Alex.

First Aid Training

- Alison reported that 4 people attended the excellent one day course organised by Alex. It was suggested that a winter date might ensure that any future course was better subscribed

Growing in Haringey

- Iain reported that he had heard nothing further about the proposed food audit.

Allotments Briefing Note

- Site inspections – Site Secretaries to report any inaccuracies
- Invoicing – improvements promised so that plots can be re-let earlier in the year
- Allotment Officers - in the process of reallocating some allotment sites to different officers to match tree responsibility areas with allotment sites. List to be circulated in due course.

Site security

- Lindy reported that the Creighton Avenue Trading Hut and Storage Shed were burned down over consecutive nights in June. Lindy said that the police were unhelpful though they had made an arrest and recovered some goods after the May break-in. Other shed fires were reported at Fortis Green and Higham Road. Concerns were raised about site security (keys, fencing and gates) and the storage of inflammable materials such as Calor gas cylinders and petrol in sheds. Jeff advised that Golf Course had improved security by replacing the old nos. 2 key with new padlocks and registered security keys, the same as at Rectory Farm. Golf Course tenants paid £8 for the initial key and £20 for a replacement key unless stolen.
- It was suggested that a briefing note be prepared about improving site security and the storage of inflammable materials. Jeff agreed to provide a note describing the security arrangements at Golf Course including replacement fencing and registered keys. Forum Steering Group to take forward with Alex.

Waiting Lists

- Issues concerning multiple plots and the deletion of names because of ethnicity or gender from waiting lists had been raised at the April meeting by Nick (Rectory Farm). Unfortunately neither Nick nor Alex were present so the matter was carried forward.

Sale of allotment produce

- Carried forward to the next meeting

Topics for future meetings

- Toilets
- Role of the Forum
- What should an allotment look like?

Next meeting: 11 October 2014 at Bruce Castle Museum, 10.00 to 12.00. Meetings in 2015 to be confirmed