

Minutes of the Haringey Allotment Forum – 6 October 2018

Forum website: www.haringeyallotmentforum.org.uk

Present: Alexandra Palace (Alison Liney **Chair**, Sally Chubb); Creighton Avenue (Lindy Berkman); Creighton Road (Rory Budds); De Quincey Road (Murielle Porter-Weiss); Highgate (Geoff Kemball-Cook); Mannoek Road (Brian Richie); Quernmore Road (Richard Bornat); Ranelagh Road (Julie Parker); Risley Avenue (Colleen MacLaren); Shepherds Hill (Kathy Riddle, Juliet Mann, Lynn Malloy, Trevor Wyatt); Shepherds Hill Railway (Helen Killick), Wolves Lane (Iain Drury – **Notes**); Alex Fraser (LB of Haringey)

Apologies: Clare Winstanley (Golf Course); John Porter-Weiss (De Quincey Road), Jane Anderson (Marsh Lane)

1. Minutes of the 7 April 2018 meeting

- 1.1 Accepted as correct
- 1.2 First Aid Training – feedback from attendees included “a useful refresher” but “not focussed on allotment first aid issues”. Epi pens should not be carried in first aid kits. Tenants who have had an allergic reaction to insect bites, wasp and bee stings should be carrying their own epi pens.
- 1.3 Site Security – The Site Security Best Practice Note was approved.
Action – Geoff to post a copy to the HAF web
- 1.4 Eco Compost giveaway – the eco compost plant at the Edmonton site will close on 31 October whilst the existing “waste to energy” plant is dismantled and replacement plant is built.
- 1.5 Tenancy issues – Iain reported that Wolves Lane had carried out an exercise to understand why certain tenancy issues arose including unauthorised multiple keyholders; unlawful occupation of plots; oversized sheds and nuisance BBQs. Whilst there were underlying cultural and language reasons, the conclusion was that the issues arose at an individual level across all cultural groups rather than with specific groups as a whole. Consequently, Wolves Lane has been addressing tenancy issues with some success at an individual level with volunteer mentors from the various cultural groups on site.

2. Allotment Service

- 2.1 Appointment of dedicated allotment officer – Alex reported that Emi Mehmet has been appointed as the Allotment Co-Ordinator. He will take up post on 20 October 2018. Alton, the temporary admin worker will be retained for a further two weeks to help introduce Emi to his new duties. Emi previously worked in Haringey’s Finance Dept and is an experienced allotmentee, including spells as Site Secretary on his Enfield based site.
Site inspections will resume in April 2019.
- 2.2 Service Level Agreement – The “Schedule of Devolved Management Responsibilities” was discussed. Minor amendments were proposed and agreed including dispute mediation, probation forms and key recovery on termination of tenancies.
Action - Iain to amend the document and submit to the Steering Group for approval

Next actions – to draw up a Service Level Agreement incorporating the schedule of devolved management responsibilities and the agreement to a ring fenced cost neutral allotment budget.

- 2.3 2018 Rent Invoices – Acknowledged that Colony might not be as accurate as it should be. One of Emi's first tasks will be to work with site associations to audit the database i.e. carryout a comparison exercise between Colony and site association records to ensure more accurate invoicing for 2019.
Action – Emi and site associations to work together to update Colony.
Action - Alex to provide site associations with a list of outstanding debtors
- 2.4 Site Association Repairs Grant Allocation – Geoff outlined the work undertaken by the Steering Group to arrive at a fair and transparent method of allocating the new repairs and maintenance grant. The allocation is based on let poleage per site rather than number of plots which includes both full and half plots. A site with 100 let poles or less will receive a £700 flat rate (which will be held by the Allotment Co-ordinator on behalf of sites with no site association), while larger sites grants are uplifted by £140 per extra 100 let poles or fraction thereof, in addition to the £700 flat rate. The combined grants total £31,769 with an average uplift of 200% per site.
Action – Geoff to post a copy of the new grant allocation on the HAF website.
- 3. Any Other Business**
- 3.1 Dick Tomlinson – Dick's sudden death was noted with much regret and sympathy for his family.
- 3.2 Electricity on site – Richard Bornat asked for details of any electricity provided on sites to enable him to compile a report e.g. mains supply, generators, solar panels, windmills etc.
Wolves Lane, for example uses solar panels to power lighting and ventilation in its onsite waterless eco toilet.
Action – All, please pass any such details to Iain and he will forward to Richard.
- 3.3 Out of Borough residents – Richard asked about OOB applications. Alex said that whilst Haringey allotments were primarily intended for Haringey residents there was no specific policy excluding OOB applicants. It was open to individual sites to determine their own policy, for example, a number of sites close to or on the boundaries of the Borough have chosen to extend applications to OOB living with one mile of the site.
- 3.4 Private allotment sites – Richard asked for details of all private allotment sites in Haringey to whom he could refer people looking for a plot at Quernmore Road e.g. the Thames Water Myddelton Road site.
Action – All, please forward details of known private allotment sites to Iain who will pass onto Richard
- 3.5 Access to site waiting lists – It was agreed that Helen could refer Shepherds Hill Railway applicants to other sites that might have vacant plots. To be done via the Allotment Co-ordinator.
- 3.6 Bywaters horse manure deliveries – Geoff reported that Highgate asked to be supplied with horse manure but no deliveries have yet been made.

Next Meetings: 12 January, 6 April, 6 July & 5 October – in the Lecture Hall except 6 April which will be held in the downstairs East Wing Gallery.