

HAA COMMITTEE NOTES FOR AGM 7 JULY 2022

All AGM papers can be downloaded from the 2022 AGM section of HAA website at www.highgate-allotments.org/documents

Contacts with Tenants and Probationers

HAA maintains an email list for sending out information to tenants and probationers. Requests for email addresses to be added or removed from this list should be sent to highgateallotments@outlook.com.

HAA's website at www.highgate-allotments.org/ is accessible to all tenants and gives a variety of useful information, particularly on the Documents page, including information sheets, forms and Committee Minutes.

HAA also runs its own closed Facebook group. You can join up here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079908324773>

Financial Report

Hinchee Hung

See separate paper on HAA website for calendar year 2021 Profit and Loss Account, with comparison figures for 2019 and 2020.

Plot Lettings

Maggy Meade-King

Generally in past years around 20 plots have been re-let each year. During the last two years the rate has been much reduced - ten plots re-let in 2020 and just seven plots re-let in 2021, due to fewer people leaving the site during the pandemic. Ten plots have been let so far since the beginning of 2022 so we are beginning to return to more normal levels of departures and new arrivals. There have been some false starts where people realised quite quickly that they didn't have the time to commit to a new allotment – a couple of these have deferred for up to two years in the hope of being in a better place at that point: several have left the waiting list altogether.

Shed Shop

Sara Jolly

During pandemic years 2020 and 2021 person-to-person sales in the Shop were replaced with email ordering and delivery to plots. However from 17 July we aim to reopen every Sunday from 12 noon to 2pm. We could do with more volunteers so that it is not too much of a commitment for anyone. Please text Sara Jolly (her number is on the Shed Shop door) if you want to know more about volunteering.

Site Secretary

Geoff Kembell-Cook

Plot Inspection May 2022

Twice-yearly plot inspections by Haringey Council were suspended in early 2020 due to the pandemic: we had our first new formal inspection in May 2022. Three Non-Cultivation Notices were issued by Haringey on grounds of weed growth/non cultivation: two tenants subsequently gave up their plots voluntarily and the third plot was successfully re-inspected a month later. Several additional plots were remarked on by the Allotment Coordinator and directed that HAA contact the tenants giving an informal warning – all tenants responded positively.

Allotments Waiting List

During the period October 2019 (the last AGM) to May 2021, a staggering 140 new entries were added to our waiting list, which then stood at over 250 entries with a likely waiting time of over ten years for the most recent applicants. The committee reluctantly took the decision to close the list to new applicants until the list is significantly reduced. Currently the waiting time for those now at the top is five years.

Equipment Hire

During 2021 HAA purchased two new wood chippers/shredders (one being a replacement for an old and broken shredder) and a new strimmer. We were also gifted a third mower and third strimmer. The mowers were serviced in winter 2021/22. All equipment is available for hire by arrangement – contact highgateallotments@outlook.com.

Equipment Shed

Following levelling of the area to the left of the Shed Shop, we purchased a “flat-pack” steel shed which was delivered and erected in summer 2021. All petrol-powered equipment, petrol, tools and other maintenance items are now stored in the equipment shed, leaving the Shed Shop much less cluttered.

Security

Occasional reports of petty thefts (such as tools) from plots reinforce the advice that tenants should not leave anything of significant value on their plot.

Haringey Allotment Forum

Prior to the pandemic Dan Hackett attended the quarterly public meetings of the Forum where information exchange and discussions take place with reps from across all the Haringey allotment sites: however due to Covid these meetings were put on hold in early 2020. The first of a new series of meetings is planned for summer 2022.

Dan and Geoff are also both members of the HAF Steering Group which helps to monitor problems and formulate policies on allotment management across the Borough, with direct access to Council managers: although meetings of the Steering Group were also suspended from spring 2020 these should restart in the autumn.
