

# BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL



Cottingley Community Centre, Littlelands, Cottingley, Bingley, BD16 1AL

## **Bingley Town Council Allotments Report July 2020**

### **Rent**

Invoices were sent to tenants on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The vast majority of tenants paid promptly by BACS. Some tenants contacted the Town Council to advise they were unable to pay electronically. A note has been made and these tenants will be contacted when the office is occupied and cheques can be received. £1,953.69 has been received and a further £368.19 will be paid at a later date.

### **Risk Assessment**

The allotment risk assessment was completed remotely on the 4<sup>th</sup> May and was approved at the F&GP meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. It was noted that the risk assessment should be completed on site and this was actioned during a site visit on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. The risk assessment will be circulated to tenants.

### **Site Inspection**

A site inspection was conducted on the 5<sup>th</sup> May by the administrative officer. Follow up letters have been sent to tenants whose plots were rated as poor. These tenants have advised the council that they wish to keep the plot and will ensure improvements are made by the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Improvements will be checked at a follow up inspection on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### **Vacant plots and the Waiting List**

There are currently no vacant plots at either site. 3 plots became vacant at Beck Lane and these were immediately let to the people at the top of the waiting list. The new tenants are all reported to be making really good progress.

There are 61 names on the waiting list for Beck Lane and 25 on the list for Stanley Street. Demand for allotments has increased during the covid-19 pandemic.

### **Skip**

The F&GP Committee resolved in March to hire a skip. This has been ordered for the weekend of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Tenants will be notified and asked to limit items for the skip to the equivalent of one bin bags worth of waste.

An issue has arisen with an amount of stones found on plots (plot 6 and recently let plots in particular). It is suggested that a further skip is hired the following weekend (24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July), for the cost of £99, to enable tenants to dispose of stone only.

## **Works**

The work on plot 6 was undertaken and completed to a high standard. At the same time, the area by the gate was cleared and tenants notified that this area forms part of plot 13 and is not for general use.

The F&GP Committee resolved in March to order materials for improvements to the central path. These have not been ordered yet as the preferred date for tenants to complete the work has not yet been identified and storage of the items may be problematic.

The clearance of plot 23, in order that it can be let as two plots, has been identified as a priority. It is suggested that quotes are obtained for this work.

It has been identified that deer are accessing Beck Lane allotments by jumping over the main gate. They are causing damage and eating crops which is distressing to tenants. Councillor Goode has suggested he could amend the gate to make it higher, which should deter the deer, and would only require reimbursing for the materials used.

## **Tree Survey**

Requests for quotes have been sent to tree consultants. One response has been received to date (29/06/20).

## **Lock Keepers Cottage**

Councillor Goode and Councillor Williams met with the owners of the Lock Keepers cottage on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. The site was surveyed and the boundary identified. A letter was sent detailing the line of the fence to be erected.

The work will commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and is expected to take one week to complete. Tenants with plots along the boundary have been notified and asked to move any plants which will be affected.