



## **WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

### **ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE**

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 28 FORE STREET, WELLINGTON

6pm

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. Apologies**

#### **2. Update on vacant plots and plots recently let.**

1 plot is currently vacant – some work is being undertaken to get it prepared to be let again.

There have been a couple of circumstances over the last year that has meant we have had to employ a contractor to clear two very bad plots. These were after long standing tenants vacated and left the plots in very poor state, which would not have been rectified with simply spraying or covering. This is the first time we have had to do this and hope it will not occur often.

#### **3. Competition**

We are hoping to once again hold the Allotments Competition in July. Alan Cavill has once again offered to judge.

The categories are as before:

Most Ecological

Best Managed

Most Cultivated

Best Newcomer

The prize will be one year free rent for one plot.

#### **4. Bee Keeping on the site**

Under the 1950 Allotment Act, the keeping of hens is permitted on allotments and viewed as an allotment holder's right, so long as they are for the tenants own use and not for business or profit. However, circumstances can be included on this and sit within the tenancy agreement. According to the 1950 Allotment Act, the keeping of bees, is subject to the landlord's permission. If

any animal on an allotment is deemed a nuisance, health hazard or their well-being is affected then they can be removed

One of our tenants has asked if they can keep bees on their plot. This has therefore been referred to the Committee for their decision.

The advice from the National Allotment Society is as follows:

- Bees make a wonderful addition to any allotment site as they play a critical role in the pollination of so many plants, especially fruit crops. Higher yields and better quality produce will result from having hives near your site.
- Insect pollinators of crops and wild plants are threatened by land-use intensification (including habitat destruction and pesticide use), the spread of pests and diseases and climate change. It is feared that two thirds of pollinators are in marked decline and that 25% are threatened with extinction. Six species of bumblebees have declined by 80% in the last 50 years and 2 species have become extinct since the beginning of this century.
- Bee-keeping on an allotment must be carried out by someone with experience and knowledge
- Beekeepers should be members of their local association and new beekeepers should have an experienced mentor to assist and support them.
- NAS would recommend that Allotment Authorities who allow beekeeping on their sites should be able to supply aspiring beekeepers with a beekeeping policy;
- Hives are best sited away from other plot holders, paths and public roads. The bees should be encouraged to fly over high hedges, fences or 2m screens around the hives, especially if their flight path crosses a footpath. Contact details for the beekeeper must be displayed on site.

#### **5. Racing Pigeons kept on site.**

A tenant has asked about keeping racing pigeons on the site. Under the 1950 Allotment Act the tenant must require the landlords permission before keeping any livestock not within their tenancy agreement.

#### **6. To consider membership for the National Allotment Society**

The National Allotment Society is a not-for-profit organisation, which exists to support the needs of all allotment holders across the UK. Through their membership programme they raise funds to ensure the future of allotment gardening is protected.

They engage with local authorities to ensure they meet their statutory obligations and offer free legal advice to allotment holders as and when they

need it. On a day to day basis we are there to help educate plot holders with growing advice, support schools into allotment growing and be the voice of allotmenters up and down the country.

### **7. Skip Hire**

A tenant has asked whether we will be having a skip at the site again this year. Last year the Council hired a skip to give tenants the opportunity to remove large items from their plots.

The skip was filled very quickly and many tenants felt it was of benefit. However, it was also misused to some extent with some tenants filling it with green waste that could be composted or waste from home.

### **8. Vegetable talks**

A tenant that does 'Veg Talks' would like to hold a summer class at their allotment plot so that people can see the veg growing. They have explained that there will be two of them there in order to make sure that no one wanders off. They have asked whether the committee would be happy with them doing this. They plan to limit the class to 10 people and will not enter any plot but their own.

### **9. Any matters that tenants might wish to raise**

### **10. Date of inspections, competition and meeting.**

- a) Inspections
  - b) Competition
  - c) Committee Meeting
- August

Greg Dyke  
Town Clerk

Debbie Bere  
Assistant to the Town Clerk

16<sup>th</sup> June 2015