

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 30 April 2018 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillor Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors Critchard, Hunt, James, Russell-Cairns and Stock-Williams

2 Allotment tenants were also present

Gill Croucher (Town Clerk's Assistant)

1. Inspection Feedback

Reported that generally the plots are in a good condition and a lot of work had taken place considering the recent bad weather. Many plots, including some recently taken over by new tenants, were now considered to be "excellent". However, a number of warnings had been issued and letters sent to tenants requesting the plots be made ready for the growing season.

Complaints from tenants had also been received about the state of some plots. A follow-up inspection would take place to ensure that cultivation was now taking place.

The inspection highlighted that many plots numbers were now either missing or in a very poor state. These would be replaced as soon as possible.

The inspection also highlighted the use of tyres on some plots. Members didn't feel this was a problem if they were being used as containers but didn't want tyres left around on plots.

Resolved that if tyres were being used, they must be removed when the tenancy was given up

2. Update on plots

There were 2 vacant plots in the process of being re-let and there were only 5 people on the waiting list.

Several warnings had been issued to plots that had shown signs of neglect.

3. Entrance and tracks

Estimates for the work to upgrade the entrance and the track to the car park had now been received - £5,812 plus VAT from RW Gale and £3,900 plus VAT from Abacus Construction.

It had been suggested that a cheaper option would be to purchase some scalplings or similar to fill in the very deep potholes with the work being carried out by one of the tenants.

It had also been suggested that the problems with the entrance gate could be resolved by adding some spacers under the hinges.

Resolved that scalpings or similar be purchased for the tenants to fill in the deepest of the potholes. Adding some spacers to the hinges of the entrance gate would also be explored.

4. Trees

The work to the trees on the site had now been agreed by Council on the grounds of health and safety for the tenants. However, work had not yet taken place due to the extreme wet weather.

5. Australian Flatworm

There had been a suspected siting of an Australian Flatworm at the site. They are predatory and feed on the common earthworm and should be destroyed immediately. Details of what to look out for had been circulated to tenants.

6. Competition

It was agreed that the Allotment Competition be run as it has been in previous years with the following categories:- Best Newcomer, Most Ecological, Most Cultivated and Best Managed. The Regional Director of the National Allotments Association, Allan Cavill, had again agreed to judge the competition. The date for the Competition would be circulated when arranged.

7. Items raised by Tenants

Complaints had been received about the state of some plots. The Town Clerk's Assistant would carry out a further inspection of the plots mentioned.

The meeting ended at 6.30pm