



# NAILSEA ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

[www.nailseaallotments.orgfree.com](http://www.nailseaallotments.orgfree.com)



## NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2017

### SEED SCHEME

**Please remember the last date for your seed order is 1 NOVEMBER 2017. Do not forget the £1 individual packing charge.**

#### AGM

At the AGM, which was attended by 17 members, the following officers were elected to the Management Committee until the June 2018 AGM: -

Victor Rawlings, Chairman, xxxxxxx: Ron Collins, Treasurer, xxxxxxx: Ian Stone, Secretary, 851552: Penny Pomphrey, Member, Eric Whitford, Member, Ann Collins, Rep Engine Lane, xxxxxxx: Helen Devey, Rep Engine Lane, xxxxxxx: Tony Devey, Member, Steve Whipp, Member and Tracy Whipp, Member. Members can contact the officers and site reps about any matters concerning the Association or the allotments.

#### Town Council Information

##### A. Role of Site Representatives

Both sites have representatives whose role is to liaise with the Council on issues affecting the allotments. Currently the representatives report matters to the Council Officers and it is for the officers, NOT the representatives, to carry out enforcement action. Over the past couple of years, there have been staff changes at the Council which have not helped in letting vacant plots quickly enough, or following up on untidy plots before they have become unmanageable. In addition to this, the waiting list has fallen dramatically and currently there are only 3 applicants waiting for plots.

The Council are now looking at a revised procedure which will include a monthly inspection by a Town Councillor accompanied by a site representative. The Council will be ensuring that the terms of your tenancy agreement, particularly in respect of the following requirements are being carried out by tenants: -

- 1.No parking on driveways.
2. Boundary walls and fences at Whitesfield Road/Engine Lane do not have material placed against them.
3. Pathways between plots are cut regularly.
4. Untidy plots-tenants will be given a limited period to clean plot before 'Notice to Quit' is served.

##### B. Self- Management

The Council is considering the issues relating to self- management of both sites by a group of tenants. A few years ago, the Allotment Association offered to take on the responsibility, but the Council turned the offer down. Discussions are ongoing, but to make it work, it will require at least 10 tenants to form the Managing Body, with a commitment and continuity of officers competent to carry out the administration. They will also be required to organise and motivate a team of similarly dedicated members. We have suggested that if the Council wishes to proceed with this proposal, all tenants must be consulted to assess the interest in forming a Managing Committee.

##### C. Plot Measurement.

A contractor for the Council will shortly begin measuring each plot at both sites. Stakes will be placed in the corner of each plot and a laser measurement taken. The result will provide the Council with an up-to-date record of their plots, and income, which may mean adjustments (either up or down) to rents.

#### Gates

Please ensure gates are locked **at all times** at both sites. There have been a number of thefts from plots and incidents of vandalism and the police have advised that gates need to be locked to deter intruders.

#### Bonfires

Permitted on both sites from **October to the end of March**. Please ensure the bonfire does not cause a smoke nuisance to residents or road users in the vicinity and is put out **before** you leave the site. Please be aware that if there are complaints from the public to Environmental Health about thick smoky bonfires, the Town Council have a duty to withdraw permission for bonfires for all tenants.

## **Social Events**

- We are investigating engaging a speaker for an event in the Spring.
- If you have any ideas for social events, please let me know.

## **Children's Hospice Donation**

This year, we have raised a further £1000 for the Children's Hospice appeal, making our total to £5500 over 8 years. Our thanks to all those who helped; donated items for sale or bought at the plant sale. Anyone wishing to visit the Hospice, please contact me.

We will be holding another plant sale on **Saturday 12 May 2018**. Please sow a few extra seeds for this worthy cause.

## **Ground Cover**

Our supply of commercial ground cover is almost at an end. We do have some odd lengths left, so please contact me to order.

## **Water Supply**

This will be turned off until early April. For the Whitesfield Road tenants, the water supply to the toilet will also be turned off, but the toilet can be used provided the system is flushed using the water in the containers.

**Please ensure the toilet is kept clean and locked.**

## **Membership/Insurance Subscription**

The Town Council's allotment rent, currently due on 1 April 2018, will increase by 1p per square metre to 22p psm-the NAA membership subscription and third-party insurance will remain at £4. **Please note that the NAA Membership Form must be completed and returned to the Town Council as proof you have insurance cover and the Association can forward your details to the insurer, otherwise you will not be insured and will be in breach of your Tenancy Agreement.**

## **Improvements Programme**

The Town Council is still investigating the provision of a building, incorporating a toilet (including use by disabled tenants) and a small kitchen, at both sites as part of a 5-year improvement programme for the allotment sites. As soon as details are available, all tenants will be consulted.

## **Web Site**

The Association Web Site, [www.nailseaallotments.orgfree.com](http://www.nailseaallotments.orgfree.com), kindly set up by Eric Whitford. There is also good links to other web sites and our own National Society site, [www.nsalg.org.uk](http://www.nsalg.org.uk) where you will find a wide range of information.

**Found at Whitesfield Allotments-Leki Walking/Hiking Stick**-please contact me for details.

# **DON'T FORGET**

**SEED ORDER - Return by 1 November 2017 to either Ron Collins, 93 The Maples, or myself at 10 Broom Farm Close.**

**PLANT SALE 12 May 2018 - Please grow a few extra seeds for this worthy cause.**

Ian Stone  
Secretary  
01275 851552

