



KINGSLEY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



2019

Happy New Year to everyone, and here's hoping this will be a productive year!

Committee membership

The following people were elected to the Committee at the AGM held last November:-

Peter Dennison, James Palmer, Sandy Parrott, Rob Pearson, David Eustice, Maria Youngs and Chris Rigden.

Peter was elected Chairman, James agreed to continue as Treasurer and Chris as Secretary.

Membership Cards

As usual when you have paid your membership fees James will leave your membership card in the noticeboard for you to collect. We will only issue them if we have received your fees so this is a reminder to pay for those of you who haven't yet done so. One membership card will be issued for each plot this year with only your plot number shown on the card.

Locks and Gates

We will be changing the codes on the gates during March and James will send out the new codes to all members who have paid their rents for this year. If you find the new code hasn't been set up, please try the old one. Please do not pass the new code on to anyone.

Fees for Plots

As you will know by now, the fees for plots have been increased quite a lot this year. This is because high expenditure last year on mole control and water have left little in the kitty for any unexpected expenditure this year. More detail about this can be seen in the Minutes of the AGM which were sent out to all members.

Water

Water is metered and we keep an eye on the amount of water used in order to monitor the cost. If you are aware of a water leak or damaged taps please notify one of the Committee members immediately.

The water supply will be switched on around the weekend of 26th March. It is usually switched off around 31 October.

You may use hoses with sprinkler attachments, but they must be hand held and not left unattended.

Motor Vehicles on Site

A complaint has been received about the uneven state of the central pathway on the site. Ruts have been caused by cars and tractors driving up the path when the ground is wet to deliver material etc to various plots.

This was discussed at the AGM and it was decided that vehicles should only enter the site via the wide vehicle gate and drive up the right hand side of the site to plots. For plots on the left hand side, the vehicles can park on the central common area and materials moved to plots in wheelbarrows.

If it is not physically possible for a plot holder to use a wheelbarrow or carry material to their plot, then the central path may be used for vehicles by these plot holders but only with the express prior permission of the Committee. Please contact a committee member if you wish to drive on the central path.

This policy will come into force after the large gate on the eastern side of the site has been mended. As some of you will have seen this gate cannot be used at the moment as the gate post has broken. We hope to have this fixed soon and will let you know when this is done.

Accident Book

Following a fall on site last year, a plot holder suggested that there should be an incident report form to report any accidents on site. A report form has been designed and can be accessed on the Allotments website. Some copies of the form will be left in the site notice board for members who do not have access to email.

Dogs on Site

Dogs are welcomed on site so long as they are kept under close control (ie on a lead) at all times. Obviously the owner is expected to clear up any mess left by the dog.

Trees

Please remember that you will need written consent from the Association to plant fruit trees/bushes that need more than 12 months to mature.

Sheds and Greenhouses

You need written consent from the Association to erect a structure that is up to 1.8m x 1.2m x 1.95m high. However, you can place temporary toolboxes, cold frames and compost bins that are lower than 1.2m without consent. Sheds/greenhouses should be erected on the southern edge of your plot (ie the entrance side) and should not shade neighbouring plots.

Tidy-up Dates

The Committee will inspect the site during March and decide what activities should be carried out on the tidy up days. Notices of the dates for tidy-up dates and activities will be posted on the notice board and sent to you by email.

We hope to see you at these events. Members of the Committee will be there at these times to inspect the site and will be on hand to discuss any matters with you.

Cultivation of Plots

Please remember that under the terms of the Tenancy Agreement, 75% of your plot should be cultivated between April and September and should be kept reasonably free of weeds. You should be aware that there is a risk that you could lose your plot if you do not meet this requirement.

Windbreak and peripheral fence

Please do not lean anything against the windbreak and the deer and rabbit proof fencing around the allotment site.

Rodents and Rabbits (and Rubbish)

Rabbits, rats, mice and moles are attracted to allotments!

Please keep your plot clear by taking all produce and rubbish home with you so that the little creatures can't feast on it or use it to build nests.

This also helps to keep the site looking tidy and cared for.

Excess Produce and Holidays

Many of you grow an abundance of produce and it is a pity if this goes to waste especially if you happen to be away during the harvest season!

If you would like to share your excess produce with another allotment association member, please feel free to put a notice on the notice board (with your plot number and produce available for harvesting).

Toilets on the Allotment site

A suggestion has been made that we should consider the provision of toilets on site. After considerable discussion at the AGM it was decided that the Allotment Association Committee would not take on the responsibility of providing or maintaining (eg emptying and cleaning) toilets on site. However, if a group of plot holders wish to group together to organise and pay for their own facilities then the Committee would consider such a request. Please email the Secretary or contact any other committee member if you are interested in being part of this group.

Finally, if you are the last to leave the allotments

Please can you make sure that the gates are shut, and the padlocks secured behind you.

Please ensure that all the water taps are turned off.

If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Allotment Association Committee (details on the site notice board).

Happy growing!

Allotment Association Website

The Allotment Association website can be accessed from the Parish Council website kingsleyparishcouncil.org and then clicking the link to Allotments.