

## **Minutes of the Haringey Allotment Forum – 13 January 2024**

Forum website: [www.haringeyallotmentforum.org.uk](http://www.haringeyallotmentforum.org.uk)

**Present:** Alexandra Park (Alison Liney **Chair**, Sally Chubb); Aylmer Road; Creighton Avenue (Lindy Berkman); De Quincey Road (Murielle & John Porter-Weiss); Elmar Road (Adam Blaxter Paliwala); Golf Course (Patricia Kelly); Higham Road (Erica Ward); Highgate (Geoff Kemball-Cook); Mannock Road (Janet Slater); Myddleton Road – Thames Water site (Chris Walker); Ranelagh Road (Colin Kerr); Shepherds Hill (Juliet Mann, Trevor Wyatt) Shepherds Hill Railway (Helen Killick); Wolves Lane (Iain Drury **Notes**)

**Apologies:** Vicky Stone (London Borough of Haringey), Richard Bornat (Quernmore Road);

### **1. Minutes of the 14 October 2023 meeting**

1.1 Accepted as correct

1.2 Eco Compost - Iain advised that Cllr Hakata might have been a little optimistic about the timing of the supply of eco compost to allotment sites. The North London Energy website suggests the installation of the composting vessel is more likely to be 2030 following the commissioning of the new Waste to Energy facility and the decommissioning and demolition of the old Waste to Energy facility.

### **2. Allotment Service**

2.1 The Devolved Management Responsibilities Workshop is to be held on the 13 April Forum meeting or earlier if Vicky cannot make that meeting. Iain to liaise with Vicky and Alex.

2.2 The narrative to the Schedule of Devolved Management Responsibilities was discussed. The following points arose:-

2.2.1 The Narrative is for guidance purposes only. Site Associations are free to interpret the note as best suits their circumstances but in keeping with the spirit of the Schedule of Devolved Management Responsibilities.

2.2.2 GDPR note– to be simplified to state that all group emails should be Blind Copied (BCC) and that permissions must be obtained before sharing any private data. There was some discussion about “Whatsapp announcement only” groups to reach tenants not on site email distribution lists.

2.2.3 1 - Maintaining a site register of tenants – the once a year check against Colony to be moved to heading 15 “Maintenance of the Colony Database” to align with the Schedule of Devolved Management Responsibilities

2.2.4 6 – Successful Probationers – plot sizes - the Excel Colony spreadsheet does not show plot sizes. Iain to take up with Vicky.

2.2.5 13 – Minor Repairs – change the minimum payment to £700 in accordance with the agreed Repairs and Maintenance Allocation.

2.2.6 14 – Monitor Compliance – change “offender” to “non-compliance”.

2.2.7 30 – Pursue debtors – add a note of site involvement in the debt process at point 30 of the Schedule of Devolved Management Responsibilities.

2.3. It was agreed that Site Secretary information pack be drawn up to include the Schedule of Devolved Management Responsibilities, supporting Guidance Note, Note for New Tenants, Probationer Form, Allotment Application Form, Voluntary Termination Notice, Tenants, Joint Tenants & Co-Workers

guidance, Waiting Lists guidance, Cultivation & Allotment Use guidance, Agreed Repairs and Maintenance Allocation. Iain to discuss with Vicky.

2.4. Mentors - Iain, Murielle, Adam, Helen and Lindy agreed to act as mentors for new Site Secretaries.

### **3. Allotment Biodiversity**

3.1 Colin proposed that Allotment Biodiversity be a permanent agenda item. Agreed

3.2 Colin proposed that an Allotment Biodiversity Guidance Note be drawn up so that tenants can promote and create biodiversity habitats on their plots without breaking the 75% cultivation rule. Geoff googled a number of Allotment Biodiversity Guidance Notes including one produced by NADCAA. Erica said that she could contribute but did not have the time to become the Allotment Biodiversity Champion.

3.3 Iain said that Annabel Foskett, the Nature Conservancy Officer was in the process of analysing the SINC Report feedbacks from allotment sites, parks and other green spaces before drawing up a Borough-wide Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.4 Iain said he would email a list of sites with existing Local SINC status together with the SINC status criteria. The recommendation was that all allotment sites should be given Local SINC status.

### **4. Guidance Notes**

4.1 Iain said that he had sent out all the 2023 agreed Guidance Notes so that all sites were aware of them. The Tree guidance is incorporated in the updated Notes for New Tenants at point 1.11 of Tenant's Responsibilities.

4.2 It was agreed that the Guidance Notes were not rules but an interpretation of the rules set out in the Tenancy Agreement to aid both Tenants and Site Associations.

### **5. Other Business**

5.1 NCNs – tenants have 30 days to rectify matters after the issue of a NCN. A Termination Notice will be issued if matters had not been rectified within the time allowed. A termination Notice is automatically issued if a tenant commits any breach of the tenancy agreement twice within any 3 consecutive inspections.

5.2 Trapping squirrels on allotment sites – grey squirrels are classed as vermin and a non-native invasive species. To be taken up with Vicky and Alex asap.

5.3 Banning Bonfires – sites can ban bonfires as a local rule if the proposed ban has been advertised and supported by a majority of tenants in a general meeting.

### **6. Next Meetings**

6.1 13 April, 6 July 2024