

Minutes of the Haringey Allotment Forum – 11 January 2025

Forum website: www.haringeyallotmentforum.org.uk

Present: Alexandra Palace (Julie Vaggers); Creighton Avenue (Lindy Berkman **Chair**), Creighton Road (Naomi Doran); DeQuincey Road (Murielle Porter-Weiss), Elmar Road (Andrew Topp); Franklin Street (Deborah Cawkwell, Carrol Gibbons,); Golf Course (Patricia Kelly); Highgate (Geoff Kemball Cook); Mannoek Road (Janet Slater), Marsh Lane (Deborah Brett); Myddleton Road (Chris Walker); Quernmore Road (Bruce Calderwood); Risley Avenue (Colleen MacLaren); Shepherds Hill (Juliet Mann, Nicol;a Windwatrd); Shepherds Hill Railway Helen Killick); White Hart Lane (Derek Willmont); Wolves Lane (Iain Drury **Notes**); London Borough of Haringey (Vicky Stones);

Apologies: Alex Fraser (London Borough of Haringey), John Porter-Weiss (De Quincey Road); Marnie Nash (Franklin Street), Sally Jones (Highgate), James White (Marsh Lane), Colin Kerr, Kate Pemberton (Ranelagh Road)

1. Minutes of the 12 October 2024 meeting

1.1 Accepted as correct.

2. Allotment Service Updates

2.1 The Steering Group met on 11 November 2024. The following updated forms and guidance have been posted to the Forum website (see above) and should be used with immediate effect.

Voluntary termination notice

Probation form

Application form

Tenancy Management Procedures (TMP) and Probationer Pack (Notes and Responsibilities for New Tenants)

The TMP provides clarification that any 2 NCNs in 3 consecutive inspections will result in the termination of a tenancy.

2.2 Talim (The Tree and Allotment Team's new assistant) is writing to all tenants without an email address to provide one. The aim is to issue most of the invoices by email to reduce posting costs. NCNs will also be issued by email if an email address is known (cleared with the Legal Team). Termination Notices will still be sent by Recorded Delivery to the last known address.

2.3 Vicky will notify Site Secretaries/Site Associations when the 2025 invoices have been issued, hopefully in the 3rd week of January. Site Secs/Sit Assocs should post the Invoice Notice provided by Vicky on site notice boards and send an email/WhatsApp Group message stating that invoices have been issued. See page 12 of the **Action Guide To Completing Documents** for the wording of the email/WhatsApp Group message. The messages should stress that payment must be made within 30 days.

2.4 Non payer lists will be issued before the Spring site inspections. Site Secs/Site Assoc should contact non payers. See page 13 of the **Action Guide to Completing Documents** for the wording of messages to non payers.

2.5 Vicky said that early Site Inspections generate a large number of complaints from tenants who for a number of reasons do not start to clean their plots until April at the earliest. Equally a lot tenants are on holiday in late July and August. Vicky suggested moving the site inspections to May/June and September/October. The pros and cons of early or later site inspections were discussed.

Action – The Steering Group meet to review matters in February.

3. Devolved Management Best Practice

3.1 Cultivation Standards – There were concerns that pre-inspections gave rise to accusations of bias by Site Secs/Site Assocs. A suggestion was made that this could be countered by site Secs/Site Assocs being informed of the reasons for non-cultivation e.g. illness, post op recovery, temporary work or other personal issues.

Action – Steering Group to review when it meets in February to consider the timing of site inspections.

3.2 Bonfires – Although bonfires are permitted from 1 October to 31 March, some sites have introduced site specific rules to restrict bonfires to a certain month or days of the month to reduce the number of smoky bonfires burning compostable green waste. Wolves Lane is introducing a communal composting scheme and a woodchipping day or two to chip fruit tree prunings in an effort to mitigate the need to burn. Golf Course is also considering ways to mitigate the need to burn. Any site specific rules on bonfires or any other site specific rules must comply with the overriding Council rules and be agreed by a majority of tenants in open general meeting.

3.3 Veolia Sustainability Grants – Iain said that Wolves Lane had been successful in applying for a £1000 grant from the 2024 Veolia Sustainability Fund to purchase materials to construct three supervised community composting bins. The fund will reopen in Spring 2025. The link to the fund is <https://www.veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund>

4. Allotment Biodiversity

4.1 Allotment Biodiversity Guidance Note – Kate has provided a revised draft of the Biodiversity Guidance Note for Tenants. Iain circulated this by email on Friday 10 January.

Action - Site Assocs to consider the draft and feedback to Kate and Deborah.

5. Other Business

5.1 Site Security – Noted that a number of sites have been targeted by thieves during the last few months. The police have provided some feedback on ways to reduce theft from allotment sites.

- Leave sheds unlocked – the logic being that an unlocked shed is less attractive to thieves
- Do not leave valuable items in sheds, locked or unlocked – thieves are currently looking for small battery powered hand tools to sell on at markets and car boot sales.
- Install dummy CCTV with warning notices. There are solar powered 4G LTE network cameras available with data SIM cards that deliver live viewing and send instant alerts e.g. Xega 4G LTE being installed at Wolves Lane.
- Plant prickly hedging e.g. Hawthorn by vulnerable perimeter fences

5.2 Water – to be discussed at the next Forum meeting

5.3 Wood burners and stoves in sheds – should not be installed as they form a fire hazard. However, at Creighton Road they were accepted by the local committee on historical cultural grounds.

Next Meetings

12 April 2025, 12 July 2025, 11 October 2025