

Minutes of the Haringey Allotment Forum – 12 July 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), Highgate (Geoff Kemball Cook); Mannock Road (Janet Slater), Quernmore Road (Bruce Calderwood, Vivienne Bennett); Risley Avenue (Colleen MacLaren); Shepherds Hill (Juliet Mann); Shepherds Hill Railway (Helen Killick); White Hart Lane (Derek Willmont); Wolves Lane (Iain Drury **Notes**); London Borough of Haringey (Alex Fraser);

Apologies: Vicky Stones (London Borough of Haringey), Alex Fraser (London Borough of Haringey) Alison Liney (Alexandra Palace), John Porter-Weiss (De Quincey Road), Adam Blaxter Paliwala (Elmar Road), Deborah Cawkwell, Marnie Nash (Franklyn Street), Patricia Kelly (Golf Course). Sally Jones (Highgate), James White & Deborah Brett (Marsh Lane), Chris Walker (Myddleton Road); Colin Kerr, Kate Pemberton (Ranelagh Road), Lynda Dyer (Risley Avenue);

1. Minutes of the 12 April 2025 meeting

1.1 Accepted as correct.

1.2 Indoor Wood Burners, Stoves, and BBQs –

Action – Iain to chase up Alex re Fire Prevention Officer visit.

2. Allotment Service Updates

2.1 Introduction of the new update to the “Colony” database

Action – Alex and Vicky to meet with Finance to discuss issuing invoices following the Colony upgrade

2.2 2026 Invoicing – Aligning with Fiscal Year

- Letters and emails to be sent out in September explaining the changes and the 15 month invoice for Jan 2026 to Mar 2027.
- Concerns about voluntary termination date changing to 31 March and probation periods for new tenants starting from 1 April. Query refunds for those terminating 31 December.

Action – Forum Steering Group to discuss voluntary termination dates with Vicky and Alex

2.3 Bank and Post Office Payments

Action – Chase up Alex re invoice reference on payslips

3. Devolved Management Best Practice

3.1 75% cultivation

- Not a rule but a flexible gauge of a tenant’s use of their allotment plot demonstrating that they have value in their plot
- To encourage the full use of an allotment plot over the year unless valid reasons given

3.2 Pre-Inspections, inspections and post inspections– Best practice discussed

- Non Cultivation NCN system driven by Site Associations and supported by Vicky
- Tenant's personal responsibility to maintain their plots to an acceptable standard
- Site Associations will carry out pre-inspections and make direct contact with tenants who are of concern to them
- Site Associations will decide which plots require an NCN in partnership with Vicky
- Site Associations will carry out post inspection checks within 21 days of the end of the NCN period and will send photographic evidence of failing plots to Vicky.
- Site Associations will issue a Haringey headed follow up template letter letting those tenants know that they have achieved an acceptable standard of cultivation.
- Vicky to issue termination notices to failed plots on behalf of the Site Associations

Action – Steering Group to discuss with Vicky

3.3 Probation period – when to invoice

- Nothing in the Guidance Notes to suggest that the 3 month probation period should be free of charge
- Suggestion that the first invoice for successful probationers be back dated to the start of the probation period

Action – Steering Group to discuss with Vicky and Alex

4. Allotment Biodiversity

4.1 Allotment Biodiversity Guidance Note – Deborah and Kate's final draft of the "Biodiversity and My Plot" presented for approval

- "Controlled areas of long grass, no mow May" to be deleted and replaced with "Controlled areas of wild flowers"

Action – Iain to amend and circulate

5. Forum Steering Group

5.1 Alison has retired from the Steering Group leaving a vacancy.

Action – Iain to invite interested members to join the Steering Group.

6. Other Business

6.1 Hosepipe Ban – Thames Water

- No plans at the date of the meeting to impose a hosepipe ban on allotments in London.
- Some discussion about exemption for Blue Badge holders should a ban be imposed.

Action – Sites to encourage tenants to follow the "Watering Dos and Don'ts" to maintain plots to a high standard with the minimum amount of water.

Next Meeting

18 October 2025

