

## Minutes of the Haringey Allotment Forum – 9 July 2016

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

**Present** Alexandra Park (Alison Liney – **Chair**); Courtman Road (Olufemi Lodge); Creighton Avenue (Lindy Berkman); Golf Course (Clare Winstanley); Highgate (Geoff Kemball-Cook); Marsh Lane (Jane Anderson); Quernmore Road (Richard Bornat); Rectory Farm (Demos Constantinou); Shepherds Hill (Rachel Allison, Kathy Riddle); White Hart Lane (Bob Watson); Wolves Lane (Iain Drury – **Minutes**, Gina Webster); Haringey Council (Alex Fraser)

**Apologies** Sally Chubb (Alexandra Park); Yvonne Say (The Green Firm/DeQuincey Road); Nick Vosper (Fortis Green); Gepke Warham (Shepherds Hill); Mariella Diaz (Aylmer Road); Jeff Cloke (Golf Course); Julie Parker (Ranelagh Road); John & Muriel Porter-Weiss (De Quincey Road);

### 1. Minutes of the 9 April 2016 Meeting

1.1 Accepted as correct.

1.2 Storage of inflammables – Alex to pursue fire safety inspections on selected sites with a new contact at Tottenham Fire Station. Purpose of the inspections is to obtain guidance and recommendations on the storage of petrol, gas cylinders and other inflammables on allotment sites.

1.3 Capital Bid – Alex has obtained £50,000 to spend this year. He has narrowed priority tasks down to 6 jobs including road and fencing repairs. Alex will discuss with the Forum Steering Group at the meeting on 19 July.

1.4 Draft guidance for Site Associations in managing allotment sites – Iain introduced the revised draft guidance based on 'The Haringey Allotments Tenancy Management Procedures'. Further amendments were suggested including data protection, mediation in disputes (Rachel to provide a copy of the Shepherd Hill mediation note) and maintenance of waiting lists. Iain agreed to revise the draft and circulate amongst the Steering Group for final approval.

1.5 Colony – Alex confirmed that Site Association access to Colony would be made available following training in September/October. Delay due to an upgrade of the Councils allotment web pages to make them more interactive.

1.6 Communications with Council – a number of concerns were raised about communications with the council including billing, tenant enquiries and Colony. It was agreed that 'communications' should be a fixed agenda item. Steering Group to take up the concerns with Alex.

1.7 Joint Tenancies – Concerns were raised that the maximum number of joint tenants and co-workers is being restricted to two each per plot because Donna is unable to record more than two joint tenants and 2 co-workers in Colony. A number of historical joint tenancies exceeding 2 tenants were reported to the Forum. Alex to check that Colony is unable to handle more than two tenants and 2 co-workers per plot.

## **2. Changing the way allotments are managed (formerly Devolved Management)**

- 2.1** Tenant Engagement Letter – Alex has shared the tenant feedback with the Forum Steering Group. A number of site associations including Alexandra Park, Shepherds Hill and Wolves Lane have provided further feedback from site meetings with tenants. Creighton Avenue is due to provide feedback. Alex to contact the remaining site associations for feedback.
- 2.2** Dedicated allotments officer – Alex has now shared the allotment management data from the 20 London boroughs with the Steering Group. The data is inconclusive in that all the boroughs have different arrangements ranging from directly managed to fully devolved self management. Alex agreed that it would be useful to include Haringey on the benchmarking spreadsheet. Alex said that he favoured the appointment of a dedicated allotments officer based on the data and feedback from site associations but had not yet had the chance to discuss this with Simon Farrow. Alex was invited to attend the Steering Group meeting on 19 July to discuss the conclusions to be drawn from the benchmarking exercise including the appointment of a dedicated allotments officer and the requisite grading exercise; access to Colony; possible rent increase to ensure that the Council Allotment Service was cost neutral; one off registration fee to cover the cost of setting up new tenants. There was a general agreement to the registration fee and revisiting the OoB rent charge.
- 2.3** Repairs budget – Alex said that each constituted site association received a budget towards the cost of minor repairs and maintenance, including the removal of rubbish. Alex agreed to check the basis on which the amount was allocated to sites but believed that it was based on the size and number of plots.

## **3. AOB**

- 3.1** Plot numbers – concern was raised with the cost of issuing a significant number of registered post NCNs for missing plot numbers. It was agreed that future campaigns in respect of large scale breaches of the Tenancy Agreement should be project managed in consultation with the Forum and Site Associations.
- 3.2** Site Security – Demos described a recent incident at Rectory Farm in which a large number of sheds were broken into and items stolen, including rotavators. It was first thought that this was an outside job gaining access through damaged fencing but circumstantial evidence now points to guests attending a plotholder's BBQ party. Alex said that any security issues e.g. damaged gates and fences should be reported to the nominated site allotment officer.
- 3.3** BBQs – concerns were raised about large BBQ parties and the nuisance caused to other plotholders. Alex said that local rules had been drawn up at Creighton Road restricting the number of guests to 8. Iain said that local rules had been drawn up and agreed at Wolves Lane restricting the number of attendees to 10 in response to complaints about large BBQ parties. Alex confirmed that local rules agreed at site association AGMs with Council approval were enforceable by NCNs. Alex asked for copies of any local rules.
- 3.4** Community grants – Bob said that Groundworks had emailed him with details of grants up to £1,000 for community projects. Bob to forward to Iain for circulation.

**Next meeting: 8 October 2016**