

Issue 13

October 2014



CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

A Message from the Town Clerk

Many of you know that Keith Blow left us in June. Peter Roberts is now our new Property Manager and many of you have met him already.

Peter has worked mainly in the private housing sector but has a wealth of experience that will be invaluable to the City Council on many matters.

Peter is now getting to grips with the challenges of the allotment sites and welcomes your views, so please do get in contact with him.

Rodney Duggua

Sheds, Greenhouses and Polytunnels

Written consent to erect any structure on your plot must be sought from the City Council. The maximum permitted size for a shed is 6'x4'. Greenhouses must be polycarbonate or plastic. Glass is strictly forbidden on allotment sites. The maximum permitted size of a greenhouse is 8'x6'. The maximum permitted length of a polytunnel is 10'.

Best Kept Plots

The awards for the plots judged to have been 'best kept' or 'most improved' during 2014 were presented by the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor John Hughes at the Chichester and District Garden and Allotments Association Annual Show held on 16th August at the Newell Centre. The award winners are pictured below;

Mrs S Stevens,
Plot 3 Durnford Close



Most Improved

Mr & Mrs Hopkins
Plot 23ab St Pauls



Best Kept 10 rod

Mrs I Willer
Plot 19 St Pauls



Best Kept 5 rods

Mrs Hawkins of Plot 38b Florence Road and Mr Soffe of Plot 13a Kingsham Avenue also received 'Highly Commended' certificates for their plots. It was very difficult to decide on the winning plots as so many of you tend your plots to a very high standard. Please keep up the good work and set your sights on next year's awards!

Bonfires

We would encourage you not to light bonfires but rather to compost green waste. However, if you have cuttings from trees and hedges that you cannot compost a *well supervised* bonfire is allowed in the colder seasons on days with little wind. *Please be considerate* of neighbouring houses that may have washing on lines and windows open.

A Note from the Property Manager

Welcome to the latest issue of the Allotment Newsletter. Since my appointment in June I've had the pleasure of meeting some of you during my visits to the various allotment sites and at the allotment 'surgery' held at St James allotment site on the first Wednesday morning of July and October. It's been enlightening to listen to your concerns and suggestions, all of which will be carefully considered. This has been very helpful in understanding what issues need to be addressed and what the priorities are. The budget for maintaining and improving the allotment sites is limited and therefore we need to approach matters progressively and on the basis of priority.

Good progress is being made in addressing uncultivated plots and re-letting vacant plots, although much still needs to be done to bring the allotments into a well-managed condition. Your continued understanding and patience in this regard is much appreciated.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the weeks and months ahead. In spring next year I will resume holding allotment surgeries at the produce shop at the St James allotment site. Ordinarily this will be held between 10am and noon on the first Wednesday of each month. All Chichester City allotment plot holders are welcome to attend to express their views and put forward suggestions.

Warm regards to you all.

Peter Roberts

Plot Demarcation

Whilst visiting allotment sites there has sometimes been difficulty in identifying which plot is which, especially on larger sites such as St Pauls and St James. This has obvious negative implications for the effective management of the allotments, especially in dealing with neglected plots. To assist with this the City Council would request that you mark all 4 corners of your plot with a small post or stake with your plot number marked on the stakes. This will also help when the plots are re-measured to establish an accurate plot size in square metres, as measuring by 'rod' is being phased out. Your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated.

Water Supply

The water supply to the standpipe taps will be turned off from mid-October until mid-March, to prevent burst pipes and water loss. If you keep chickens on your plot you will need to ensure that alternative arrangements are in place to provide fresh drinking water for your hens. Water conservation is increasingly important and the City Council would therefore encourage you to consider rainwater harvesting (water butts) and / or mulching. The City Council will be replacing the existing taps with push-top taps to prevent the use of hose pipes and sprinklers, as these use too much water. Water charges account for a large percentage of the running cost of the allotments and needs to be minimised wherever possible and reasonable. Savings can be reinvesting into improving the allotment facilities, such as installing additional push-top taps or dipping troughs to provide easy and equitable access to water for all plot holders.

Notice Boards

The notice boards will be refurbished during the autumn season, with new allotment plans displayed in each one.

Chickens & Rabbits

Written consent is required for the keeping of chickens and/or rabbits. A separate agreement detailing the terms and conditions of keeping such livestock has been drafted and will need to be signed by any plot holder wishing to keep livestock.

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL



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