

Allotment report from Assistant to Town Clerk 7th September 2020

Steve & I visited all sites prior to issuing the tenancy renewals at the end of the month.

All sites are looking well tended and Watch oak is the only site with vacancies at present.

The skip company let us down by being unable to deliver 2 of the skips as planned on Friday 28th August with only Cherry Gardens having their skip on time. It was unfortunate that the Council was not notified by the skip company so tenants could not be advised of this. The other 2 sites had their skips from Tuesday 1st September, both skips were full and level when the inspection was completed so a request has been made to have them removed.

Some tenants have made enquires as to whether bonfires are now permitted. I will contact ESFRS to confirm the current position. [Update \(30/9/20\) ESFRS no longer have restrictions in place so tenants can have bonfires under the previous terms agreed i.e. not have them regularly; try and co-ordinate with other plot holders; fires must be within confines of plot boundary; no fire to be left burning; only non compostable garden waste to be burnt.](#)

A request will be made in the renewal letters that where tenants install stock fencing to their boundary that they maintain the grass path on the outside of their fence as ground staff cannot strim without possible risk to our machinery or the fence. Tenants will also be reminded that all waste must be dealt with within their plot as plant waste was noted at Watch Oak and Virgins lane that was not on individual plots.

Current vacancies & site notes

Cherry Gardens – no vacancies (waiting list of 6 people)

A request has been made by the tenant of plot 1 to split the plot in approximately half. This was agreed and Steve will measure and mark the new plot.

2 plots are uncultivated, we have been notified of 1 plot which would be untended due to Covid 19 but with restrictions now lifted a request will be made to confirm when weed growth can be dealt with. The second plot was considered for non-renewal but subsequent to the inspection the tenant has contacted the office to advise the plot will be tended before the end of the month and an ongoing tenancy is requested (this will be reviewed before the renewal is issued).

New signs are required for the gate to request the gates are kept closed.

Netherfield Hill – No vacancies

It was noted that Optivo have not mown the overgrown vegetation as promised so a request has been sent requesting a confirmed date for this to be completed.

Virgins Croft – No vacancies

2 residents local to the site came to talk to us. One from Oakhurst Road has requested work be undertaken to create a drain from the pond to allow water to run into the ditch and hedge/boundary maintenance was agreed. The second, adjacent to the entrance, requested tree works on the oak tree be considered. I advised a formal email request could be passed to the Environment Committee for consideration.

Watch Oak – vacancies 7 full plots & all taster plots

A request to Committee might be made to split plot 11a into 2 as this is 358 sqm and has been without a tenant for a considerable amount of time.

A request has been sent to RDC requesting tree maintenance is considered where the limbs overhang the allotment site.

All allotment site boundary hedges will be cut during the winter months as part of routine maintenance.

Jane de Garston, 11th September 2020 (updated 30/9/2020)