

Allotment Working Party Meeting Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 3pm

Attendees: Lewis Hawke, John and Cathy Page, Lorraine Grey, Christine Lawrence, and Gary Ewington

Note taker: L Hawke

Notes:

1. We're pleased to report that all allotments are currently taken and there are 5 on the waiting list.
 2. The majority of allotments are currently being worked and in a good, cultivated state. The exceptions are:
 - 5B – has been the subject of reminders over a number of years
 - 15B – similarlyWe suggest that both are given final warnings to get them tidy, strimmed and under proper cultivation by September or a renewal will not be offered for October
 - 19B – we understand that the plot holder may be moving out of the village and probably giving the plot up. If not similar to 5B & 15B
 - 12A/13A – perhaps it should be suggested to the plot holder that one of the allotments should be given up as she has difficulty in keeping both under control
 - 9B – has erected a fence which is against the allotment regulations
3. Allotment holders need to be reminded that earth, weeds etc should not be thrown into the hedge.
 4. Since the BWP vacated the bonfire site and the key lock was installed there have been no problems with rubbish dumping. Indeed the site has been virtually cleaned and a number of small fires have been lit. It has also been possible to create another allotment plot on the site.
 5. We have considered the request from the Parish Clerk to have a small bonfire site on the grass area to the right of Pam's Lane at the top. We appreciate the good work that the BWP do around the village and need somewhere to get rid of their rubbish – either a fire site or skips.

However, for the following reasons we think the proposed site is unacceptable.

- i) We could create two additional plots to accommodate people on the waiting list (more income)
- ii) At present the view/vista at the top of Pam's Lane is very attractive. A bonfire site would totally ruin this.
- iii) Because the proposed site is so near the gate, it is likely to attract non allotment holders to dump rubbish on it, not all combustible. We could end up with similar problems to the previous one.
- iv) It is next to the Public Right of Way and when the fire is lit will deter walkers.
- v) The plot holders close to Pam's Lane are opposed to the proposal.
- vi) Because of its location there are serious Health and Safety issues.
- vii) One of the plot holders close to the proposed fire site has serious health issues and the smoke from the fire could have dire consequences.

We would therefore request the Council not to pursue this proposal and seek an alternative site.

Should the Council ignore our recommendations and go ahead with the proposal then a strict set of conditions should be drawn up and monitored weekly.

These are in line with existing conditions relating to the allotment bonfire site for allotment holders and include:

- a) No extraneous matter i.e. plastic etc to be burned
- b) A fire must be lit each week unless the weather is prohibitive i.e. rain
- c) The fire and materials must be kept within the marked area
- d) The management of the site and fire should be changed to have more than one person responsible and be a team led approach. The fire could then be lit on any suitable day of the week – not just Wednesday.

Should any of these conditions not be met, approval for the fire site should be immediately withdrawn.

6. We are still waiting details and quotes for pruning the trees around the allotment.