



Allotments Newsletter

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Welcome

Happy New Year.

I have now completed six months in my role as the Town Council's Allotments & In Bloom Officer and during that time I have had the chance to speak to numerous tenants and spend many hours at the allotments. It's been good to meet you all.



Bognor Regis Town Council has 146 allotment plots located at the Gravits Lane/Sandringham Way site that are rented to residents of Bognor Regis. Plots range in size from 24m² to over 300m². In the past eight months 15 plots were rented out to new tenants and currently there is a waiting list of 33.

If you have any questions or concerns you are welcome to contact me.

Bognor Regis In Bloom Competition 2023

Alongside my role looking after the allotments I am also clerk to the Bognor Regis In Bloom Working Group that, amongst other activities, organises the annual Bognor Regis In Bloom competition for the residents and businesses of the five wards of the town.

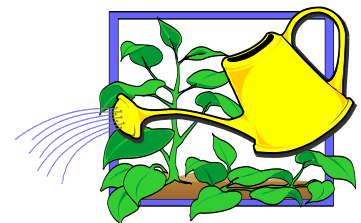
The competition's aim is to help make the town a nicer place to shop, work or visit, whilst importantly focusing on what we can do in our gardens to help the battle against climate change.

If you are also a keen gardener at home and would like to enter the 2023 competition then email me and I will ensure you receive an entry form in the spring.

Join our friendly volunteers

The Bognor Regis In Bloom Working Group is always looking for more volunteers so if you are interested in joining this group then please get in touch with me.

Steve Davis, Allotments & In Bloom Officer



2022 Allotment Awards



Congratulations to the 2022 award winners who are:

Best Kept plot on the Original Site

1st	Plot 12a	Mrs E. Wroniszewska
2nd	Plot 11a	Mr P. Carpenter
3rd	Plot 4	Mr W. Matthews

The Roy Gristwood Shield for Best Use of an Allotment

1st	Plot 12d	Mr R. Pereira
2nd	Plot 20c	Ms M. Bigos
3rd	Plot 11a	Mr P. Carpenter

The Sharon Stubbings Memorial Award for Best Kept plot on the Re-established Site

1st	Plot 94	Ms M. Kacinska
2nd	Plot 37	Ms P. Fortin
3rd	Plot 51	Mr K. Austin

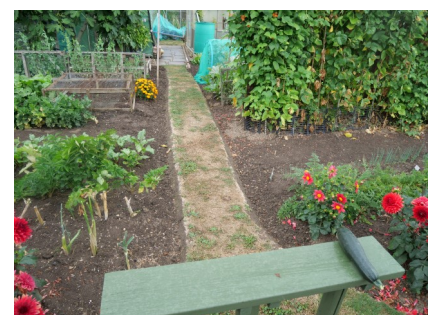
Most Improved Plot Awards

Original Site:

1st	Plot 5c	Ms E. Day
2nd	Plot 12a	Mrs E. Wroniszewska
3rd	Plot 12e	Mr & Mrs Jordan

Re-established Site:

1st	Plot 63	Mrs P. Teale
2nd	Plot 44	Ms R. Vilimaitiene
3rd	Plot 70	Mr Z. Parada



Allotment Holders' Annual General Meeting

The 2022 Allotment Holders' AGM was held on 25th October 2022 at 7pm. The Town Council responded to questions from tenants on a number of financing issues.

RENT RISES

A tenant queried the increases in some annual rents this year.

It was confirmed that those rises were a result of equalising rents across all plots to an amount of 28p per square metre. The rent rises were not across all plot-holders and the Town Council will not be seeing a large increase in its revenues.

HOLDING DEPOSITS

A tenant asked if Holding Deposits were retained when Town Force had to make good the plot of a departing tenant.

The Town Council was able to advise that deposits are always withheld to cover the cost of Town Force making good plots that are not vacated in a tidy condition.

COST OF RUNNING THE ALLOTMENTS

The Town Council was asked if it made a profit from the allotments and could the accounts of the allotments be published.

The Town Council can report it does not make a profit from the running of the allotments and that allotment accounts are published monthly on the Town Council website.



Allotments Shelter & Additional Fencing

SHELTER

At the latest Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting approval, in principle, was granted to install a shelter on the Re-established site.

A location close to the Gravits Lane gate has been identified that will not shade or crowd any neighbouring plots. Tenant Reps and nearby tenants have been given the opportunity to comment on the location, size etc.

It is hoped the shelter will be installed by Town Force in the spring.



FENCING

Having surveyed the Original site it is clear that there are parts of the boundary that have not been fully or properly fenced.

The Council will be looking for quotes to complete the fence by plot 1 and plots 5a & 5c as well as fencing the northwest boundary where there is currently a low fence and hedge.

It is anticipated this work will be done before the next growing season.

Height of Trees

The height of trees on the allotment plots is a topic that has been raised by many tenants.

The current allotment information leaflet states that only fruit trees can be planted and that they should not overgrow your plot nor exceed 8ft in height.

The height restriction could be amended

later this year so that fruit trees can be grown to 10ft (or 3m) so long as they DO NOT overgrow your plot OR shade a neighbouring plot.

This tree height rule will be enforced more robustly in 2023 so you are encouraged to carry out your winter pruning with these heights in mind.



Musts and Must Nots

Tools should not be left out on the plot. They MUST be stored in your shed or taken home with you. As a reminder the Town Council is not responsible for loss or damage to any gardening equipment, sheds or greenhouses owned or used by the tenant.

Most plots are in good or very good condition which is great to see. However, there are plots that are in a poor state of cultivation. During this coming year tenants of those plots will be expected to cultivate and maintain their plots, otherwise Warning Letters and, potentially, a Notice to Quit will be issued.

Theft of product and damage to equipment has been reported on a few occasions, including over the recent Christmas holiday. This is unacceptable and contrary to the general ethos of what allotments stand for and must not happen.

Tenant Representatives 2022-2023

Your Tenant Representatives are your first point of contact if you have any concerns or questions.

At this year's Allotment Holders Annual General Meeting the following representatives were nominated:

Re-established site:

Louise Russell (Plot 104) and Scott Slater (Plot 45)

Original site:

Marcus Bicknell (Plot 8) and Colin Penfold (Plot 7a)

A warm welcome to Marcus for taking on the role replacing Graham Delury who we thank for his five years of service.



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