

7th July 2008

Dear Tenant,

Following a recent Allotments Sub-Committee meeting a number of issues have been raised and I am writing to inform you of these.

THE USE OF GLASS AND CARPETING ON THE SITES

Firstly concern was expressed over the Health and Safety implications of the use of glass on plots. Panes of glass have been found leaning against sheds and flat on the ground, occasionally broken. It was noted that tenants use these panes to make temporary greenhouses. It was agreed that this could continue but that glass not being used for purpose should be stored in sheds.

Secondly the use of carpet on the site was also discussed and the Sub-Committee noted that this was mainly used on the original site to make paths. It was agreed that this could continue but only on a temporary basis.

VOTING PROCESS - MOST IMPROVED PLOT - ORIGINAL AND RE-ESTABLISHED AREAS

Following the Tenants meeting held recently, the subject of the voting process was discussed. Comment had been made that the voting forms are sent out too late in the season, and this made it difficult for tenants to judge the plots. As a result, the Sub-Committee agreed that voting forms would go out earlier this year. Please find enclosed a voting form for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the Most Improved Plot - Original and Re-established areas. The closing date will be 1st October and forms need to be returned to Bognor Regis Town Council. Tenants' representatives will also have extra copies in case anyone mislays their form. Voting numbers last year were very poor especially from the Re-established site. Please show your support for the hard work your fellow tenants have put into their plots and vote.

JUNIOR AWARDS

Is there anyone you would like to receive a certificate for their hard work on the allotments? Maybe your children or grandchildren who have helped you tending you plot. Please let us know the name and age of your nominee, as well as a reason why they deserve a certificate and we can arrange for one to be presented to them at the A.G.M.

ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE CLERKS INSPECTIONS

Following recent inspections of both the allotment sites, several letters to cultivate were sent out. As a result, numerous complaints were received from tenants dissatisfied with receiving this letter. The Sub-Committee was disgruntled at this backlash as there is a very large demand for allotments and tenants need to actively maintain their plots. It was AGREED that the Sub-Committee would support any decisions as a result of my monthly inspections.

Monthly inspections will therefore continue and letters will be sent to all tenants breaking paragraph 3c of their Tenancy Agreement.

RENTAL INCREASE FOR 2008-2009

The Sub-Committee noted that there had been no increase in rents last year. This year had seen increased Town Force time, extra administration, as well as new fencing and gates for the Original area. The difficulties some tenants have in paying the rent was also noted. Comment was made over the differing charges across both sites and the security offered.

After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to increase the rents on the Original Site by 20% for 2008/2009, to bring them more in line with the rents charged on the Re-established site. There would be no increase in rents on the Re-established site.

TAPS AND HOSEPIPES

It has also come to my attention that taps on the original site have been left running, causing the ground to become muddy and slippery. Please ensure that taps are turned off at all times, between uses. Tenants are also reminded that the use of hosepipes by tenants is restricted to times when the site is quiet. Tenants wanting to fill watering cans are to have priority and if hosepipes are left connected to taps and not in use, these can be disconnected by tenants.

A.G.M.

Lastly, just a little reminder it is hoped that the A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 21st October 2007 at 7.15pm, this will be confirmed nearer the time, so as previously mentioned we are looking for your recommendations for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the Most Improved Plot on the two allotment sites. Please, do use your vote this year. We hope you will attend the A.G.M. as this is a social event when prizes are presented and all tenants have the opportunity to have their say and talk to members of the Town Council

Thank you for your support in these matters.

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Hambleton
Allotment Committee Clerk