



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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Dear Tenant,

What lovely weather we are experiencing at the moment, I am sure that many of you have been working hard on your allotments preparing your plots for the growing season ahead.

Tenants representatives

Firstly may I say a big thank you to all our Tenant Representatives for giving up their time to help the Town Council manage the Allotments.

At the AGM in October Tenants voted for the 2011/12 Representatives who are Mr P Ledword (Plot 1), Mr M Bicknell (Plot 8), Mrs V Johnson (Plots 53, 54, 56 & 57), Miss S Trodd (46, 47, 48, 80, 81, 83 & 84). They are your representatives on the Allotments Sub-Committee which meets twice a year. The Representatives speak on behalf of all Tenants and over the years have helped the Town Council make improvements to both sites. They work closely with Town Councillors on the Sub-Committee assisting with the setting of guidelines and regulations for the Allotments. Uncultivated plots are also discussed at length at these meetings as well as ways of preventing this reoccurring and frustrating problem.

Allotment number posts

Some of you are aware that at the last Allotment Sub-Committee Meeting, the Tenants representatives requested that the concrete posts be changed to concrete slabs. Any Tenants wishing to make this change may, but the original post must be returned to the Town Council. The slabs must be placed in the same place that the post stood and the slabs must be 12"x12". As with the post the plot number must be clearly displayed at all times.

Water

As most of you are aware this lovely warm, dry weather comes at a price and it looks like most of the country is heading for a hose pipe ban shortly. Please be especially mindful when using water at the site particularly when using hose pipes. We will notify you if there is a hose pipe ban in the area and request that you respect any ban.

March Site Visit

I visited the site recently and it was great to see so many plots cultivated in preparation for planting. There were though a number of plots that were in need to cultivation and they have been issued letters to cultivate. If these plots are not improved in the near future then the Tenants will be issued with a Notice to Quit.

In 2011 the Town Council had no choice but to evict a number of Tenants who failed to cultivate their plots, the majority of them were unfortunately new tenants. I ask all of you please to be respectful of your fellow tenants and cultivate your plot. No one wants to be next to the overgrown plot with the long grass and the seeds blowing across the plots. If there is genuine reason your allotment is uncultivated please contact the office. If you are having difficulties maintaining your plot, we cannot help you unless we are aware of the situation. As most of you know there is a large demand for allotments, please let me know if you no longer require your plot so that it can be let to the next person on the waiting list. If you have more than one plot and are struggling to maintain them, you do not have to give all of them up.

Footpaths

All Tenants are reminded please to keep footpaths and the edges of plots trimmed. All paths including those against the hedges and fences are to be kept clear of obstructions. All plots should have a path running on all sides, as access is required for maintenance.

Health and Safety

As most of you are aware Health and Safety inspections take place twice a year. This is a legal requirement the Town Council has to undertake. On these inspections we are looking for things that may be dangerous to yourself, others on the site and even trespassers. On a number of occasions I have come across broken glass at the site, much is from damaged greenhouses but in some instances broken panes are left lying around on plots. Please be cautious having glass on your plot.

There are many things that can be considered a Health and Safety risk, especially on an Allotment and the list is exhaustive. The following are examples of things we are looking for on the inspections:

- Broken glass
- Paths clear of obstructions
- Edges of plots should be clearly defined and edges strimmed
- Tools that are not in sheds
- Damaged or broken property
- Items overhanging the edges of plots
- Concealed ponds

Allotment Watch Scheme

If you would like any of your equipment marked with a UV marker please contact PCSO Myfanwy Moore on 0845 607 0999 to arrange a suitable time to meet. This is a free service.

All tenants are reminded to keep the gates locked and report any incidents to the police. If the police are regularly informed they will help keep an eye on the area.

Please find enclosed an entry form for the annual Bognor Regis In Bloom competition.

Thank you for your continued support in these matters.

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Hambleton
Allotment Committee Clerk