

BARNET FEDERATION – REVISED STRATEGY

Note by the secretariat

1 This paper revises the strategy paper of November 2013. It reflects input from a workshop held November 2016, primarily for member society chairs, but with other society representatives also welcome. 22 societies were present that evening and two sent comments via email. The revised strategy was adopted at the April 2017 members' meeting.

2 Since November 2013 societies have progressed significantly under self-management; for many it is now business-as-usual with a solid foundation for the future, although some continue to have issues such as volunteering interest and vacancy rates.

The Federation

3 The Federation is a network of 37 allotment societies across Barnet providing mutual support. It is co-ordinated by a small Federation committee.

Vision - a strong and sustainable allotment movement in Barnet.

Aims

4 As a Federation we can leverage our combined energies, expertise, and contacts:

- share our knowledge, skills and resources
- have clear, co-ordinated communications, in external relations
- celebrate and promote allotment gardening across the borough

Approach

5 How do we go about achieving this vision? As a Federation, there are several main lines of approach we should take:

6 *Share our knowledge, skills and resources*

- online guidance papers with comprehensive advice on allotment self-management
- workshop discussions and site visits; sharing experiences, issues and ideas
- online forum to quickly share issues, successes and ask for input
- independent complaints review
- periodic knowledge exchange meetings between the Federation committee and individual member sites: what is going well, which could be shared more widely; what's more of a challenge, and could be picked up via workshops, guidance, etc
- collaboration and knowledge sharing on financial management, including purchasing and grant applications

7 *Have clear, co-ordinated communications in external relations*

- maintain awareness of, and links with, other allotment organisations in the locality e.g. the London Allotment Officers Forum, and nationally e.g. the National Allotment Society via London Panel so as to keep in touch with wider issues and concerns and to access information and resources
- hold Barnet Council to its obligations towards allotments

8 *Celebrate and promote allotment gardening*

- continue and develop the annual competitions and horticultural show
- promote good eco-practice which helps sustain our allotments and plugs into wider public interests, e.g. bee-keeping
- promote allotments within Barnet, marketing to potential future plot-holders and forging links with community groups