

# barnet allotment federation

## **NEWS & NOTES – January 2015**

Please send any page contributions, news or events for News and Notes and/or the Federation website to [barnetallotmentfederation@gmail.com](mailto:barnetallotmentfederation@gmail.com)

### **Website**

We regret that there has been a problem that prevents access to the Federation's website which, at the time of writing, has yet to be resolved. We apologise for this.

### **Issues with Barnet Council:**

The follow-up meeting with Jenny Warren and Oluwatoyin Adeleye-Abiodun to that which was reported on at November's Federation meeting will take place on January 27. Richard King and Hushang Balyuzi will represent the Federation. To help them prepare for the meeting, would societies please let Richard ([richardking101@aol.com](mailto:richardking101@aol.com)) know of any work done by Barnet on their sites since the last meeting or promises that have been made of work to be done or details of any communications with Barnet regarding these works?

### **Storage of leases**

Among the many recommendations made to members in the Federation's papers on self-management was one that societies should deposit the original copies of their leases with a bank. Since then, it has become clear that few, if any, banks will now provide such a service, and the fees charged by safe deposit centres are prohibitively high. On reflection, this need not be a matter of concern, since the lease itself is no longer required as evidence of tenancy; this is provided by the registration of the lease at the Land Registry. So, what is important is that societies make sure that their leases have been registered. The originals can then be kept within societies and it is suggested that each officer of the society should be given a copy of the lease with a cover sheet saying where the original is stored. The Federation has been provided by Barnet with a complete set of officially scanned documents as pdf files, so if a society wants to make additional printed copies, please ask Richard King ([richardking101@aol.com](mailto:richardking101@aol.com)) or Hushang Balyuzi ([bafchair@gmail.com](mailto:bafchair@gmail.com)) to send you your file which can then be taken to a print shop; that should be cheaper than asking the print shop to do the scanning as well.

### **Allotment Self Management – The Barnet Process**

In October 2014, with nearly all the leases signed and with the societies well on the road to sustainable self management, Andrew Brown and Richard King produced a report setting out how the move to self management was made and describing some of the difficulties and lessons learned. It also includes a description and statistical presentation of the progress made by the societies in preparing themselves to undertake self management, and the challenges still facing them. This report, *Allotment Self Management – The Barnet Process*, is likely to be of interest both to the societies, as a reminder of how far we came and how long it took, and to allotments societies and authorities elsewhere who might be contemplating going down the self management route. There is a link to it at [www.barnetallotments.org.uk/selfmanagement](http://www.barnetallotments.org.uk/selfmanagement).

### **Woodland Trust cut your own beanpoles**

The Woodland Trust runs monthly "cut your own beanpole" sessions on a site called Belhus Chase, nr South Ockendon in Essex, in partnership with the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd. You can cut your own traditional British hazel beanpoles and peasticks for free rather than buying expensive bamboo that has travelled half way round the world. Full training is provided but you are asked to bring any hand saws and loppers you have. Dogs are welcome but must be on a lead and under control at all times and anyone under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult. The next dates are January 11, February 8 and March 8. If you would like to book onto any of these sessions please contact *Tony Chadwick, Site Manager – Essex*, [0845 293 5723](tel:08452935723), [tonychadwick@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:tonychadwick@woodlandtrust.org.uk).

**Contact details** are on the website at <http://www.barnetallotments.org.uk/contact.php>