

barnet allotment federation

NEWS & NOTES – June 2015 - SUPPLEMENT

Please send any page contributions, news or events for News and Notes and/or the Federation website to barnetallotmentfederation@gmail.com

Meeting with Barnet Council – 11th June 2015

On 11th June 2015 Gill Saunders, Richard King and Hushang Balyuzi met Oluwatoyin Adeleye-Abiodun and Tracy Sawyer of Barnet Council Greenspaces to discuss the current state of play on allotment business, in particular developments since the last meeting on 24th April. This note summarises the general points covered – Richard King is reporting direct to those societies who asked us to raise specific points relating to their sites.

Overall progress on essential works

The work schedule previously supplied by the Council has been further revised and the latest version *Fed 2015 06 schedule* is attached. The Council have now appointed new tarmac contractors and these are expected to contact the relevant societies in the next couple of weeks to inspect the work required. The repairs would then be included in the contractor's programme later in the month.

Water system upgrades

Both Thames and Affinity water companies normally check that work required to ensure compliance with regulations has been properly carried out. We were told that Thames have completed the checks on sites in their area and that the Affinity engineer Andy Hutchinson will be contacting societies in Affinity's area to arrange visits to sites to check the work carried out there as well.

Water system inspection reports

Both water companies supplied the Council with an omnibus report containing the results of all the site inspections in their areas. Oluwatoyin will be sending to each society the extract covering their site. These extracts will be cut-and-paste and some bits of neighbouring reports may be blanked out, but we were told that no material has been deleted about the site in question. The companies also provided general recommendations about water use in their reports and this general material may well be circulated separately.

Trees

Greenspaces are discussing with the Council's arboricultural contractor why some tree works on sites were not completed, or not done at all. In some cases it seems that the contractors (or their sub-contractors) failed to return to finish work. We will keep you informed if we hear more.

Change of lawyer

As Oluwatoyin said in her email to societies, the Council's lawyer Jennifer Affie has been transferred to other duties and allotment matters are now being handled by Anjam Beg. Her email address is Anjam.beg@harrow.gov.uk

Annual returns to the Council

The annual returns to the Council required by our leases should reach the Council by 1st July, covering the year 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015. If you have not sent the annual returns for previous years, please do so as well. The information required is shown in the specimen form that you can find as a schedule to your lease.

Change of lease trustees

For those societies which are unincorporated, the allotment lease was granted to several (usually three) named individuals who act as trustees for the allotment society. When trustees change, as far as the Council is concerned, the society simply needs to inform the Council of the change within 28 days by sending a signed copy of the relevant document e.g. meeting minutes which record the change. The Federation team is exploring whether any action is needed with the Land Registry upon a change of trustees.