

# barnet allotment federation

## NEWS & NOTES – August 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)

### Meeting with Barnet – August 2015

On 7<sup>th</sup> August 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 11<sup>th</sup> June. This note summarises the general points covered – Richard King has reported directly 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 08 schedule* is attached. Most of the works have now been completed although some specific jobs are still outstanding, mostly on particular sites.

#### *Trees*

Greenspaces are waiting to hear from 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.

#### *Roads*

Tarmac repairs should now be complete on the site roads. Societies should ensure that allotment holders leave a grass verge at least 0.5 metres wide between their cultivated ground and the edge of all roads to prevent the road edges being broken up by traffic. Repairing the edges can be very expensive.

#### *Property issues*

The Council is making steady progress through the list of a dozen or so property and related issues – encroachments, boundary problems etc. – and we have informed the relevant societies who raised such issues.

#### *Annual returns to the Council*

Around 15 societies have not yet sent their annual returns to the Council covering the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. They should have been submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> July. If you have not sent the annual returns for previous years, please do so as well. The returns are important because there are a condition of the leases and because the Council uses the information to update their list of day-to-day contacts with your society. An electronic copy of form for making the annual return can be found on the Federation's website here:

<http://barnetallotments.org.uk/files/selfmanagement/Schedule%204%20Annual%20Return.doc>

#### *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, the society concerned is required to inform the Council. The Federation team is currently exploring whether societies need to inform the Land Registry as well and we will issue guidance on this as soon as possible.

#### *New general enquiry number for the Federation*

As you may have seen on the re-vamped website, the Federation has a new general enquiry number – 07938 936663. The Council has been informed of this and asked to direct enquirers to the website or to this number.

#### *Goodbye Oluwatoyin*

Oluwatoyin will be leaving the Council at the end of September when her contract finishes. After that, Tracy Sawyer is likely to look after the Council's residual interest in allotments. Jenny Warren is expected back from maternity leave around the end of this year.

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