

barnet allotment federation

NEWS & NOTES – January 2018

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

Federation Committee – request for new members

February's AGM will include the annual elections to the committee, with three current members not intending to re-stand (Isobel, Richard and Belinda). Isobel is stepping down from her role as Federation Secretary. We're keen for someone new to join us, with the option of them taking the Treasurer role instead (as Liz could become Secretary). In addition, we'd also welcome volunteers who could take on other tasks, e.g. working with the website editor on the maintenance of the site, helping run the horticultural show.

Please contact Kirstie if you're willing to help and would like to find out more.
chair@barnetallotments.org.uk

Federation online forum

We haven't had a 'general discussion' meeting for a few months now, so if you're grappling with a site issue, or would like to share a piece of good news, please do add an item to the Federation Forum.

Website changes

The Federation website gives one channel for members of the public to find out which sites have plots free (or short waiting lists), and make a plot request. If you haven't already, please see the Federation email of 19 December which outlined changes to this system, particularly:

- A request that societies check their contact details and 'plots available' information is up-to-date
- A request that all sites sign up for a 'society account' for the Federation website (the same one used to access the forum), to prepare for a new process by which sites will update their letting information themselves. We will advise of this new process in February

Complaints process

Several societies have recently handled complaints, in some cases contacting the Federation for guidance. This has given a useful reminder of potentially useful approaches in dealing with complaints, disputes and concerns, e.g.:

- taking a witness along to observe discussions and provide an independent record

- keeping careful records of the problems, the other party's responses, discussions and other communications with the people concerned
- collecting evidence including photographs where appropriate
- carefully following due process as set out in the tenancy agreement, constitution, complaints procedure etc.

Further guidance is available on the Federation website.

<http://www.barnetallotments.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/selfmanagement/Problems-with-Tenants.doc>

Campaign to preserve Ealing allotments

Northfield Allotments in Ealing are facing a threat of a new housing development building on part of their site. Visit their website for more information and to sign their petition and make a donation. <http://ealingdean.co.uk/savenorthfieldsallotments/>

Barnet planning consultation

Last month Kirstie attended a consultation event run by the Barnet planning department, focused on how to respond to London-wide goals to significantly increase housing over the next 20 years. Allotment land was not covered in the general conversation; when asked, one of the Planning Officers advised that their status would remain unchanged.

Contact details for the Federation are on the website at barnetallotments.org.uk/contacts

Previous issues of Notes and News are available on the website at barnetallotments.org.uk/notes