

Site Secretary's Report to A.P.A.A. AGM 20/07/2024

Welcome to Sophie Lawton and Julie Vaggers, Deputy Site Secretaries.

Waiting List 203 Julie has taken over running this. She will give her report at the meeting. There are two people on the "Long List" who have come to the top and have to contact me when they are ready for a plot. If they do not renew their interest every January they are removed. The list has moved 9 places since July 2022. The next person to be contacted for a plot joined in July 2017.

Lettings We were all deeply saddened by the sudden death of Graham Thompson. He had the plot by the bottom gate, 1A Alexandra Park. We have done our best to clear it and it is now ready to be let. There are four new tenancies since July 2023. Sheena and Kevin Byrne on 4A A.P, Charlotte Watts and Shelagh Markey on 39C A.P, Mahdee Goolamallee on 28 GLM and Martyn Hunter on 7A Nursery. Helen Adamou and Jack and Adam Littler are probationers on 24D and 4B A.P. respectively. Three probationary tenants failed their probation. Three tenancies were given up and the association was given part of 35GLM as a new café seating area. There are four plots vacant at the moment. I will begin letting again on 21st July

Site Security - There have been no apparent break-ins from outside but quite a lot of crop theft and theft of compost, ladders etc from plots. This is extremely upsetting for the individual plot holders affected and it's sad to think that someone on the site is responsible.

Plumbing – Peter Campbell and Stavros Nicolaou are still in charge of this. Peter is the one to contact if you come across a problem. The water pipes run close to the surface and are easily punctured so take care when driving in long stakes! We plan to mark the course of the water pipe in the Nursery which was punctured recently.

Green maintenance - Bob Hare liaises with the bio-diversity group over maintenance of the top path and Tim Laskey is still employed occasionally. Gladys Osborne cuts the grass up from the car park and along beside 37 GLM. The bio-diversity group manages 45 GLM and the hazel plot by the bottom gate.

Smell of sewage from Ally Pally Garden Centre This has been a problem for tenants in the Nursery. We complained to the Garden Centre and they are monitoring their septic tank more carefully but Julie is determined to get Haringey Environmental Health to make a visit. She will persist!

Trees – The council paid for dead wood to be removed from the sycamore overhanging 39B A.P. Work paid for by the association includes: felling of the bay tree on 45 GLM (APAA Plot), the fig tree and willow on 35GLM, the willow and buddleia on 1A A.P. Reduction of ash saplings in various places, removal of overhanging sycamore branches from Springfield Avenue, removal of a fallen willow tree, thinning of the large apple tree on 28GLM. You will see from this that we have decided to deal with the problem trees on vacant plots. Please take care to remove ash/oak/sycamore seedlings and get permission from the site secretary before planting any tree.

Rubbish Clearance – an ongoing problem. Please don't let rubbish accumulate.

Council Administration and Allotments Forum - The forum is a voluntary group of site secretaries and representatives from Haringey allotment sites which meets quarterly. Victoria Stones, our allotments officer, attends the meetings. It is an opportunity for the Allotments Service to work with site secretaries to establish best practice. I usually chair and Julie Vaggers and Natalie Rusby have each attended a meeting.

As always, I'd like to finish by thanking all members of the committee for their help over the past year.

Alison Liney, Site Secretary.