Allotment Society

Report for the Parish Council

May 2022

We currently have 23 members and 1 waiting. There are 20 full plots and 7 half plots under some form of cultivation with 1 and half plots available to let. Plots are £15 per year which we have not increased for many years.

There are other plots available in the “wilderness” area, on the motorway side of the site. Although we have tried to clear this area in the past, it is so overgrown with brambles and blackthorn that it is rather a thankless task. Not only do the brambles and blackthorn need to be cut down but the roots need to be dug out too, otherwise we are only encouraging growth by pruning them. I think we need advice and help before we try to tackle these problem areas.

Most of the plots which have been leased out, are under cultivation although some of the new plot holders are finding it very hard work to get their plots fully operational. The wildlife (i.e. rabbits, rats, mice, pigeons and deer) are a continual problem but most plot holders now have some form of defence in place. During the drier spells, watering seedlings is rather difficult as we only have one water trough at the site to serve all the plots. Most plot holders now have water butts on their plots and these are helpful but we have winds from time to time and any compost bins, water butts and any loose material not anchored down, is often scattered across the site. We are very conscious that this material is a form of litter and we are trying to address these issues, we have recently constructed a collection area for scrap metal which over the years has become an increasing problem. We will next try to deal with the loose plastic items which have blown across the site and need to be taken for disposal.

There appears to be an increased enthusiasm and awareness about tending an allotment plot in these uncertain times, it is very easy! to produce an abundance of food at little cost which tastes better than you can buy. All it needs is some dedication and a little hard work. I believe that the enthusiasm will continue and that there will be a greater demand for plots in the future.

*Frank Ashurst*

*Chair*