

OWPC Patch Allotments Bi-monthly report pre-January P.C. meeting

Public Forum Queries – November 2014

The allegations of bullying were investigated by the Allotment Team councillors and the circumstances clarified. No further action is required.

The resident also raised the issue of use of the Patch Shop by non-Patch Allotment Association members. The PAA provides goods at economic prices for its members and is not permitted to sell to non-members since it would then be subject to the laws and regulations related to running a shop. The resident was under the impression that membership of an alternative organisation, the South West Counties Allotments Association (SWCAA), bestowed membership of the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners (NSALG), to which the PAA is affiliated, and that this in turn would give them the right to PAA benefits. The SWCAA is not affiliated to the NSALG, and even if this were the case there are no reciprocal arrangements between affiliated members of the NSALG.

New East Gates and Palisading

Project on hold until concerns about PAA erecting the palisades are resolved.

Aggregate for Ridings

This has been replaced by the acquisition of the road planings from the recent Newport Road re-surfacing. It has been confirmed with MKC that the planings are non-toxic, non-tar based and are not hazardous to people / produce. The quality, amount and use of these planings mean no permit/licence is required but the permit/licence exemption must be registered. The budget for the aggregate has been left in place until any cost of whacker plate hire is finalised.

Post Box

We have yet to decide what standard of box to purchase. Depends on whether we will allow box to be used for rental and other payments.

Plot Staking

The re-measuring and re-staking project will commence, probably in early spring when the state of the ground is more suitable for the exercise.

Containers

One container is now secure storage for machinery such as a tractor used for mowing and transporting heavier goods such as the planings around the site and other implements which are lent out to tenants. The second container is fitted out and up and running as the new Patch Shop, freeing up the hut as a much improved meeting room.

Financial Summary

Expenditure figures for the Container and Notice Board projects are now complete, all other capital and all revenue expenditure figures are still just budgetary figures.

Palisading figure reduced to reflect expected lower expenditure following discussion with PAA on alternative security solutions in the vicinity of the gates. Some movement between designations, e.g. re pyracantha is still probable, but uncertainty still exists.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Pyracantha	£2,000			
Aggregate and cement for Ridings	£550			
Re-staking including labour (£2k)	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000	
Palisading (delayed from 2013/14)	£1,500			
One-off West boundary pruning	£800			
Lockable post box	£200			
Noticeboard	£621			
Toilet storage bins (concrete slabs)	£40	£40	£40	
Containers	£2,403			
Annual Totals	£10,114	£2,040	£2,040	

REVENUE EXPEDITURE

Anglian Water	£1,500
Grass cutting x 8	£800
1 cut flower meadow	£150
Postage x 3	£280
Stationery	£75
Printing	£75
Skip	£210
Pest Control	£200
NSALG membership	£55
Maintenance, troughs and associated plumbing	£250
Security maintenance, boundary, locks	£250
Discretionary items e.g. open days	£250
Vacant plot clearing	£1,750
Compost-able toilet consumables	£250
Clerk	£520
Total	£6,615