

Site 3 Report for RGS AGM November 2020

Inner Area, Plots 100 - 127

Covid19:

What an extraordinary year we have had, who would have imagined we would live through a pandemic! A huge thank you to our chairman Helen Finch she has worked tirelessly to ensure the plots remained open and consequently a huge asset to the community. Several measures were taken to make the Sites Covid secure and plot holders complied with them on the whole.

Two plots had to be re-let owing to locking down in Europe and safeguarding issues.

Lettings:

During the year 8 plots have changed hands last year it was 14 plots.

Improvements and repairs:

Everyone is aware of the new water system which was installed in the summer. In spite of the temporary inconvenience it means that there are now 11 tanks and we hope it will be easier for everyone to access a tap closer to their plot. A reminder of the rules regarding water: -

To conserve water as far as possible: not to use sprinkler attachments for watering; not to leave unattended hoses attached to a water tap; to observe hose pipe bans when in force; wherever possible to use watering cans (or similar) when watering. To notify the Site Secretary as soon as possible if any leaks or problems with the water system occur.

Security:

We are always grateful to plot holders for reporting any incidents concerning security, we always try to find a reasonable solution to these issues. The number of keys 'at large' grows and we always request that keys are returned when a plot holder no longer requires them.

Plot maintenance and inspections:

The standard of cultivation has been very high this year. Inspections take place 3 times a year. Spring when we look to see if a plot is ready for cultivation, summer when we hope to see lots of produce and an absence of weeds and autumn when the plot should be tidied ready for the winter.

Paths:

Paths in the Inner Area have often been hazardous especially when wet! This year the standard of maintenance has improved greatly. A reminder of the rules: -

To maintain the common pathways surrounding all sides of the plot, to ensure that the common pathway is not eroded or allowed to encroach or veer away from its course. The standard width of common pathways should be not less than 450 mm/18 inches and should be level. A path dividing 2 plots should be not less than 300mm / 12 inches and agreed by both Tenants.

To ensure that path edges are maintained in good condition and clearly visible, that paths are free of obstacles or other hazards.

Trees:

We are very grateful to plot holders who regularly prune their trees and especially to a plot holder who removed a large unproductive tree. A reminder of the rules: -

Any tenant wishing to plant fruit trees or perennial bushes must seek permission before planting. Fruit trees must be on dwarf rootstock. They must be maintained in good condition and regularly pruned.

Branches should not be allowed to cause obstruction on common pathways

They should be planted well within the boundary of the plot, at least 450 mm/18 inches within the boundary of the plot

They should not cause undue shade on neighbouring plots

Thank you:

A huge thank you to everyone who helps to keep Site 3 a pleasant and safe environment. The allotments keep going due to the generosity of many plot holders who give their time, knowledge and skill to the allotment community. In particular Greg Wilcox who takes deliveries and has done a huge amount of work on the new pavilion. Raj Patel is always incredibly helpful especially with new plot holders giving advice and encouragement. I share the job of Site Secretary with Vivien Fowler who looks after the plots in the Outer Area and am indebted to her for her support, good nature and sense of fun.

Ali Linton

Site Secretary (inner area)

Outer Area, Plots 50A – 100B

The year generally

All was going well until the Covid virus arrived in March. We were very fortunate in being able to work on our plots from the outset and as a result most plots were cultivated to an extremely high standard over the Spring and Summer.

Others who had to isolate or shield were not so lucky and some plots were left unattended. However, great kindness was shown by many plot holders who helped maintain plots where this had happened.

Lettings

Over the year 7 plots have been let (one twice). Plot 68 was reduced in area to create space for the new tea hut.

Improvements and repairs

The new tea hut has been installed, and hopefully the electrics and landscaping will be complete before the end of 2020.

The council repaired the fence which abuts our Dover House Road entrance.

Rubbish left by DH Road residents outside our entrance, then scattered by foxes, was a problem but now seems to be under control.

Wood chip supplies have been good. Manure deliveries were disrupted due to the virus and new supplies are being sought from stables in Clapham.

Security

Sadly thefts of produce have been reported. It is a difficult problem to monitor and prevent though.

Plot Inspections

We carried out three inspections over the year. The Spring inspection was very informal, the main purpose being to check that plot holders were coping with lockdown and isolating, and if they needed help. Only one Stage Two letter was sent out and the plot holder has now vacated the plot.

Thank you

To all those kind people who have helped others less fortunate over the last few months. Especial thanks to Helen Finch for her advice and wisdom on dealing with the virus and keeping us safe.

Vivien Fowler

Site Secretary (outer area)