

SMAA Meeting, 10.00am 8th October

Next meeting proposed Thursday 11th February 2027, Point to discuss: Equipment dot marking.

- Update on the situation with rats.
There is still a hold on new livestock applications which has been the case since October 2024. This is due to the continuing risks surrounding avian flu, and an increase in pests on site. Our pest control contractor last visited Middletown on Friday 18th September. A report was received which highlights problem areas on site. The listed tenants have all been issued with letters to make the required improvements to their plots. The areas have also been baited accordingly. An additional point was raised at the meeting concerning the bait box outside of allotment plot MT24, this has been moved from situ and untraceable. Emma will contact Liam to see if he can replace this.
- Update on fly tipping
We have not received any further reports of any fly tipping at Middletown allotments. Any fly tipping can be reported directly to us at the office and we can act accordingly.
- The Importance of hiring a skip
It was discussed at the last SMAA meeting that SMAA would fund the skips, with STC assisting by sharing the skip hire contact they use and helping to coordinate delivery and removal arrangements.
It has since been agreed that STC can fund one skip using the remaining S106 funds, with SMAA funding an additional one or two skips, depending on the cost of hire. Mark will obtain quotes, and we will inform SMAA of the costs before proceeding with the booking.
SMAA has requested that SMAA members be given priority access to the skips, in recognition of their membership fees, with all other tenants able to use the skips afterwards, subject to space remaining.
 - What are the plans for livestock inspection in the future.
Livestock enclosures are inspected at the same time as when general allotment inspections are conducted.
- Problems with livestock escaping into other allotments and damaging the crops, what can STC do about this problem and how will future applications for keeping livestock be dealt with?
An email was recently circulated regarding this. Any loose livestock found on the allotments will be removed from site. There is still a hold on accepting any new applications to keep livestock due to the points detailed further above.
- Concern over the proximity of livestock to residential properties
Our pest control contractor has recently visited the site and reviewed any risk of pests near to nearby properties and has confirmed that there is no great risk or current infestations in these plots.
- Reminder that the Hub is a community resource
New tenants are advised of this when first taking on an allotment garden and also given an SMAA membership application form.
- Request for an itemized list of expenditure at the allotment site by STC
- **Report Provided.**