

SMAA Quarterly Meeting 11th September 2025

- **Feedback from the Public Services Committee about possible rent reductions for people who install water butts.**

This proposal was accepted by The Public Services Committee. A £5 rent reduction will be put in place for all tenants who have a connected water butt / suitable water container with a lid on their allotment. This will be with effect from the new tenancy year starting 1st April 2026

- **Rats – quite a few people are reporting they have seen rats’ multiple times. One suggestion is could we work together to get greater pest control presence, including having someone at the allotments who is licenced to carry out pest control, or to enable more visits from the pest control officer.**

We already have an approved pest control service contract in place with Avanti Pest Solutions. Any reports of pests have been acted upon with additional site visits and treatments. If tenants have issues, they should report directly to the Skipton Town Council office or the allotment officer, and we can act accordingly. A ban on additional livestock applications is still also in place until October in hope this also helps reduce the number of pests on site. We will review this again in October.

It was mentioned by SMAA that there is a tenant who would be happy to assist us with pest control. While we cannot permit the use of further pest controls, we have agreed that if the gentleman would be happy to report any signs of pests around the site to STC, this would be very helpful. We can then provide our contractor with this information to aid with treatment areas.

- **We've had several questions about what's happening with unattended plots - what can we tell people to reassure them their concerns are being listened to. What action can we take as individuals and where do we report concerns.**

Allotment inspections have been conducted over the summer by the allotment officer. Tenants not following the requirements within their tenancy agreement have been issued with notifications to rectify. Any concerns can be reported directly to the Skipton Town Council office or the allotment officer. It is worth noting that new tenants do have an initial 6-month grace period to bring their allotment up to the required standards before an inspection will be conducted. STC will review if a clause can be implemented into the tenancy agreement for tenants that receive multiple cultivation letters in the same year and what the actions for this could be.

- **What is the update re car park plans**

We are currently gathering quotes for this work which will be discussed at the next Public Services Committee meeting on the 9th of October.

- **Update on tree maintenance and plans**

We are still waiting for the arborist to consult with us on the sites tree health to allow us to conduct a tree maintenance plan.

- **In light of newspaper reports of allotments being earmarked for building we are trying to establish who owns / what is the status of the allotment lands (see AOB)**
To be re-discussed at the next meeting.

The tree near outside plot 111/112 is rotten and potentially dangerous. Tenants are worried about their safety. What was the report on the tree when the trees were inspected and what are the plans for taking it down.

The initial concern relating to the tree was bark necrosis at a main branch union at about 6m to the SW. This bark necrosis is consistent with former infection by bleeding canker (possibly bacterial or Phytophthora), once vascular tissue under bark is infected outer bark dies and over time falls off. This is not uncommon with mature sycamore, perhaps exacerbated in drought years

The tree in June was in good condition. Leaf size, number of, colour and canopy density were normal. A healthy tree is able to/has the resources to grow new wood over/adjacent to areas of historic bark loss (similar as it would seal over a branch removal wound in time). As the tree is in good health and the bark necrosis does not appear to be active (no bleeding black lesions/exudations from the bark) it is anticipated the tree will compensate for the loss with new bark (then wood below) growth. The tree does not require any intervention.

- **Vacancies and waiting list numbers.**

We do not currently have any vacant allotment plots. We have 13 people on the waiting list.

- **A skip day has been approved by the PSC. This will be paid for using the allocated S106 funds. As there are certain materials and items that cannot be placed in the skips (we will be charged additional if this is not adhered to) please can you confirm SMAA volunteers are available to man the skips and what date this can be done?**

SMAA going to devise a supervision rota and send through some proposal dates for the event to be held on a Saturday. We will look to book two, mixed waste skips.

- **Middletown Park dog waste bin seems to be getting full quickly and overflowing. STC to review its use and the cost of a larger bin here if required.**
- **Next meeting date proposed Thursday 20th of November 2025 at 11am.**