

SMAA Quarterly Meeting 16th November 2023

(1) AN UPDATE PLEASE ON RAT CONTROL

Liams report from his last visit in October: Middletown Allotments Dale mentioned he had received a report of rat activity, so Liam revisited all areas and rebaited where necessary. It is common for activity to increase at this time of year, rats will scavenge for food to stockpile and search for nest material and warm places to shelter away from predators and the drop in temperature. Please could you remind plot holders not to over-feed their chickens. With the colder weather it may be more convenient for plot holders to visit less but leave more food for the chickens, this will only attract rats. Next visit – week 3 November.

Tenants must report any sightings or problems with vermin on their individual plots to Skipton Town Council so that we can pass this information on to pest control for action and monitoring.

VISIT SCHEDULE – MIDDLETOWN ALLOTMENTS

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

(2)- A NOTE OF THANKS FOR COUNCIL HELP TO REMOVE LARGE ITEMS OF RUBBISH .

(3) A REQUEST TO THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MAKING PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR PLOT HOLDERS.

We can discuss this with our Chief Officer. This may have to go to the Public Services Committee for discussion. Currently all members of the SMAA have this through their membership, provided by the NSALG.

(4) HAVE WE GOT A FINAL OUTCOME ON THE RENT REVIEW PLEASE.

Response from Chief Officer: We went through the whole process of mapping the allotments out, paying for a company to complete this process so we had a square meter price and people paid for whatever size they had, and we had an accurate measurement of the plots. It was a lengthy and costly process.

Despite this action being agreed by Committee, it was then voted against when the results were brought back, so plots are still on a fixed charge.

Some plots are much bigger than others, so we've tried to restructure as much as possible and to bring tenants on the correct tariff.

£48 for under 100 square meters and £96 for over. It is unfair, it should be price per square meter and calculated for the space you have. I will be pursuing this next year so that everybody pays for exactly what they use.

(5) WHAT IS THE FUTURE PROSPECT FOR AN EXTENSION OF CAR PARKING FACILITIES.

We do not currently have the funds or resources available for hardcore to extend parking areas. We will be discussing the prospect of clearing some additional areas in the coming months with the help of the community Service Group. They will be rejoining us in the new year.

Mark and Dale still have planned to remove the large tree stump from the dormant area near the main allotment site entrance. This can then be used for additional tenant parking.

We will look to build a fenced area at the main gates for allocation of woodchip deliveries. As this will then be more contained, it will allow for more vehicles to park in this area.

(6) IS THERE SOMETHING IN PLACE FOR TENANTS TO MAINTAIN THE GROWTH OF TREES ON THEIR PLOT?

In the current tenancy agreement, it does state that tenants shall not (point 7.1) cut, loop or fell any tree growing on the allotment garden without first obtaining the council's written consent and if appropriate planning permission.

We will look to devise a tenant tree maintenance policy to be implemented, by committee approval, in the next tenancy year.

Next BRAA Quarterly meeting – Proposed date & Time of Thursday 7th of March at 11am.