

SMAA Quarterly Meeting 9/08/24

Some questions will be reviewed, and a response returned later due to our allotment officer currently being on paternity leave until the end of the month.

1. Perimeter fencing and security – To discuss Dale’s findings

Dale reported that his perimeter fencing inspection found that there are currently no gaps or security risks. The weakness found on one of the plots, where youths had been entering, has been re-secured and we have not had any reports of trespassing since. The association has enquired as to whether it would be possible to install stock fencing across the top of the spiked railings for extra security. There are concerns that youths or small adults could still squeeze through the gaps between the railings and enter the allotments. STC to investigate this.

2. Dot marking – Progress on arranging?

The last email chasing this with PC Raheel Akram was sent by Emma, with SMAA Secretary CC'd in on 11/06/24. We have not received a response back. It will be more efficient for SMAA to arrange this directly with North Yorkshire Police and advise STC of what potential dates a generator will be needed.
raheel.akram@northyorkshire.police.uk

3. Improvements to paths on site – Plots 111 / 115 have no proper path. SMAA is willing to apply for grants to fund materials.

This will have to be discussed by councilors at the next Public Services meeting on 26/09/24. In the meantime, SMAA to communicate with the tenants on the church allotment plot to discuss their findings from when materials and costs were previously researched for this cause. SMAA will also look into finding fundings for materials if STC are able to cover the labor costs.

4. Breakdown of how allotment rents have been spent over this last year.

Received and reviewed by SMAA at the meeting.

5. Parking – When will the removal of the stump be completed? Would it be possible to mark parking spaces out with white lines?

STC will research standard parking bay sizes and spray parking bay lines in the allocated area.

6. Plot 181 – Wooden planks have been dumped outside of the plot which now blocks plots access.

STC will investigate this. The tenant has not reported this to STC.

7. Have new tenants been issued with SMAA membership information?

Yes, membership forms are offered when tenants come to collect a key from the office. It is also discussed with them at their initial allotment viewing.

SMAA is going to look at changing the membership renewal dates to fall in line with the tenancy renewal date / run of the financial year.

8. Grant for shed from STC made on 25/08/23 and expires on 25/08/25. Would it be possible to extend this deadline to allow for the association to have further discussions?

Grant provided by Craven District Council, now North Yorkshire Council. SMAA to contact NYC for enquiries regarding this. Shed application approval still stands from STC.

9. History of ownership of Middletown Allotments?

I will discuss this request with the Chief Officer and where this information can be found. The association also asked if STC could research registering the allotments as a community asset and placing a protection of community asset order on the site.

10. Waiting list and vacant plots list?

Only 3 plots are now vacant at Middletown. 3 applicants remain on the waiting list, but two of which have specific requirements and the current available plots are not suitable. Viewings will reconvene upon Dales return to work

11. Rats are an ongoing problem.

We have only been made aware of a recent issue from 1 tenant, no other reports have been received. Please find below the pest control Rota. Tenants should inform STC of any pest issues and we can keep Avanti updated on this.

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

The schedule works as follows:

- Week 3 = visit carried out between 15th- 21st

12. Would the council be willing to share the cost of a skip with SMAA?

This will have to be discussed by councilors at the next Public Services meeting on 26/09/24. SMAA to inform STC of their budget towards the cost of this and they will also try and arrange with the local community safety hub for property dot marking to take place on the same day.

13. Plot 2 – definition of boundaries.

To be conducted by Dale in September upon his return.