

Skipton Middletown Allotment Association (SMAA) Meeting 10/08/23

Current Vacant Plots: 21 (15 of which are on the previously known PP2 and waiting to be strimmed before we can let out).

Current Applicants waiting: 13.

1) Rat control

I have contacted the Property Manager in NYC and asked if we can arrange to meet her at the garages off East Castle Street to conduct some inspections. She is currently on annual leave, but hopefully we will be able to get something arranged soon.

Moving forward, we will notify all tenants by email / sign when the next pest control inspections are so that tenants can be on site to allow Liam access to their gardens. I will also put on a notice Liams contact number should anyone wish to discuss pest control issues with him directly.

2) Rubbish on plots

Several plot clearance notifications have been issued and actioned. We have also placed signs in the 'swap shop' area to deter items being left there as discussed at the last meeting.

3) Obstruction Posts

Posts have been left unlocked for access over the summer period.

4) Are tenants required to hold public liability insurance? Concerns over visitors to plot hurting themselves and then claiming.

Public liability insurance is not a mandatory requirement for tenants to hold, however, if this is preferred, they do have the choice to purchase a plan through personal arrangements.

5) Plot measurements – Some tenants concerned about the price increase for plots after measurements.

Research has already been conducted with other neighbouring town councils prior to this decision been made. Other local Town Councils have decided to increase all allotment rents year on year (YOY) by standard CPI (Ilkley Town Council) and 9% (NYC formerly CDC). STC have decided not to implement an overall increase and to leave rents at the same price despite inflation. We are simply bringing plot pricing in line with relevant garden size measurements, of which there are only 20 plots affected at this site with effect from April 2024 (tbc at next PSC). To clarify, size specifics are as follows:

Up to 100m2 = Half Garden @ £48 PA.

101m2+ = Full Garden @ £96 PA.

6) How are we policing tenancy rules?

Allotment inspections are being conducted and relevant action taken for those who are not maintaining their plots as required. We have recently transferred our allotment inspection process to digital form and so this round of inspections is taking a little longer while we get to grips with the system.

Any activities that go against the tenancy agreement, can be confidentially reported to STC for us to take a relevant course of action.

- 7) Update of SMAA.
SMAA will continue to operate, but due to a decline in volunteers, there will not be as many community activities planned as these require a lot of time and management.
- 8) Rubbish still being left by the main gates from previous 'swap shop' site.
Skipton Town Council will remove and dispose of these existing items.
- 9) Can STC provide new tenants with information about SMAA?
This is something that we already do. We have available on our reception desk information on how new tenants can join the association. We have also advertised this on our social media and by email on a number of occasions as requested.

Next proposed quarterly meeting date: Thursday 16th November at 11am.