

BHAF Allotment Forum meeting, 19. September 2018 at Patcham community centre
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Attendees:

   Speaker: Vic Borril

   Council: Bruce Riach

   BHAF: Jane, Maureen, Josephina, Mark,  Simon, Hannes, Richard

   site reps

+ Vic talked about pas and future city wide strategies on food, green spaces and allotments

    - a new consultation for the next 5-year strategy is underway

      > the main vision is: healthy and sustainable food for all

    - Vic asked for inputs from allotmenteers for the strategy, a number of things were
      discussed and Vic took notes and stated that she got some valuable input

+ web site update

    - the BHAF website ([www.bhaf.org.uk](http://www.bhaf.org.uk)) is being updated to use a new underlying infrastructure

    - this will greatly improve maintenance and future proof our content

    - it also will improve ability of site reps, associations and plot holders to contribute and organize
      new content

    - Mark will send out details on how to add content to the new site

    - new site should be available towards the end of the month

+ update on donations (as part of annual rent payments)

    - Mark and Hannes updated the forum on last meeting with the council and on the new
      proposals

    - an additional sheet with donation payment details will be sent with this years plot invoices

    - we still working on the wording to encourage donations

       - there was a suggestion to follow the Brighton festival notion of "pay it forward"

    - the allotment office will print off the new sheets and forward to mailroom

+ council update

    - Bruce reflected on his first year of running the allotment office (hard work, but positive
      overall). Site reps and BHAF thanked Bruce for his excellent work, and positive
      communication

    - report on plot inspections (346 notices, mostly non cultivation)

    - Bruce reported that the city-parks part of the council is restructuring itself

      - need to look at alternative ways of running the service to survive - open to any
        new ideas and proposals

      - move to new office (might disrupt communications)

+ discussion on admin fee to join waiting lists

   - Bruce reported that under the new scheme there are fewer applications
     (419, down from 710 in previous year, 1/6 of applicants have concessions, so it's free)

   - Bruce reported that numbers of applications have gone down dramatically for some
     specific sites and that this will be closely monitored and reviewed again in the future

   - Maureen reported the Moulsecombe allotment association will make a formal complaint
     regarding the application fee of £16, on the grounds that it is too expensive and prohibits
     some people from getting on the waiting lists