

Apologies: Paul Corley, Peacock Lane and John Lowe, Hillesland.

Mark Carroll explained Allan Brown’s absence due to family illness.

**Compost Delivery.**

Bhaf money being used. Accumulated because committee hasn’t claimed any expenses. This is separate from Development Fund money.

Site Reps (SRs) to arrange amount, time and place for delivery in March/ April with Hannes, preferably by end of January.

Site Reps to contact Hannes by email..

Can have loose or jumbo bags delivered. Jumbo bags easier to deal with.

Amount depends on number of plots on any given site.

Limit to 2 wheelbarrow loads per tenant.

Approx 12 wheelbarrow loads in a jumbo bag.

Intention is plot holders to be on site for delivery.

Must be made clear that the compost is free to plot holders .

**Strategy Review.**

Discussion on the 3 month trial period for new tenants. Is it long enough? Is it being implemented? Some site reps feel it is not.

Plot size choice. Full, half or quarter plots should be offered to all new plot holders within constraints of availability. Nearly all Site Reps are now doing this, with only one site appearing to not be offering a choice of plot size to new tenants

Organic/ biodiversity practise should be encouraged by SRs to all tenants.

Site shops should be encouraged NOT to stock insecticides, fungicides or other chemicals.

Christine Zaniewicka, Keston:

Many seeds for sale have a fungicidal coating. Aldi and B & Q and those labelled ‘organic’ do not.

Wyevale sell plants from Holland that contain fungicides

**Suggestions for AGM speaker 28th March at the Brighthelm Centre.**

Suggestions asked for. Team Pollinate was a popular (only) choice.

**New tenants being charged for keys and existing sheds on the plots they take over.**

Some sites are charging new tenants for sheds which are left on plots . At Eastbrook, the site reps ask for a voluntary contribution. However some reps are making charges of up to £50 for a shed. Reports suggest that new tenants are not being told that this is a voluntary contribution. The money reportedly goes to the coffers of the local association. However, this practice is open to possible abuse and most site reps at the meeting felt it should not happen at all. Some Site Reps said that they felt the practice should be the same across the city and that if you took a plot which had a shed already on it then lucky you. You should not be asked for money for a structure that was left behind. Other Site Reps were of the opinion that as long as it was a voluntary donation to the local association then it was ok. This policy needs to be cleared up.

Allegations of a site charging for keys, rather than a refundable deposit.

Some tenants had contacted BHAF saying that had been told that their payment for a key to the site was not refundable. This goes against the city wide policy that payments for keys are deposits.

There is a need for transparency and standard practice across all sites. Site Reps at the meeting were upset that it seemed that there were differing practices at different sites.

**The Site Reps role**

Site Reps are there to represent their plot holder’s wishes as well as to liaise with the Council. They should be elected and should run the site according to the wishes of the majority of plot holders at their site. Site reps should offer friendly support when trying to 'enforce’ rules, rather than confrontation. We should be working ‘with’ plot holders rather than feeling as if we are working against them. It’s a complex job and Maureen Winder is keen to facilitate more training for Site Reps to help them in their role.