

RGS Plot inspections

Objectives:

1. Ensure plot holders are adhering to conditions in the tenancy agreement.
2. Improve the standard of cultivation whilst being mindful of busy life styles and that working a plot is a leisure activity to be enjoyed.
3. Plots are being cultivated:
 - a. Weeds controlled
 - b. Crops growing as expected at the time of year
 - c. At least 60% of the total plot cultivated at peak growing season months ie. May to Sept
4. Crops are being harvested.
5. Ensure plots are not spiralling out of control creating a big problem to potential incoming tenants.
6. Plots are not a likely to be an annoyance to allotment neighbours and in the case of perimeter plots, to householders surrounding the allotment sites.
7. Paths trimmed and have no overhanging plants or other obstructions.
8. Edges of paths are in good condition to reduce the risk of injury.
9. Ensure only cropping trees on dwarf stock are planted with written permission and kept pruned so are no higher than approximately 10'.
10. Perennial cropping bushes are pruned appropriately.
11. Assess new tenants' need for advice /support/ encouragement.
12. Assess existing tenants' need for support / downsizing / pruning or removing large trees.
13. No structures erected that have not had agreed permission granted.
14. Ensure any structures are in good condition and are not a safety hazard.
15. Rubbish is not being hoarded on a plot.

Procedure:

1. Plot inspections are carried out in the first week of the following months:
 - May to September inclusive:
 - Emphasis on cultivation.
 - Identify stone fruit trees that need a good pruning in mid-summer.
 - Ensure paths are in good condition
 - Follow up problems identified at the previous inspection.
 - November:
 - Emphasis on rubbish clearance.
 - Soundness of structures.
 - Ensure paths are in good condition
 - Identify apple and pear trees that need a good pruning.
2. Site Secretary and Site Manager to carry out routine inspections with preparation by site Secretary. If a plot holder is close to eviction one more person, who may be a committee member or not, will be involved.
3. Notification of inspections to plot holders:
 - a. Permanent notices kept on the notice boards on each site.
 - b. Plot holders are told about the inspection schedule in the April Bulletin
 - c. Notification given either through the Bulletin or email about the next inspection and the particular emphasis.