

Site 3 Report for AGM November 2017

This has been my fourth year as site secretary. I have continued to enjoy getting to know more and more plot holders and know the quirks of site 3. It is great to see the community grow and function well (almost all of the time). We are very fortunate in having a rich source of helpful, resourceful plot holders that are willing to do that bit extra for our community and in so doing keeping it going in a constructive forward thinking way.

Lettings: 5 plots have been split generating 6 more plots and 2 plots have been amalgamated. We now have 166 plots altogether on site 3. Over the year since the last AGM there have been a total of 21 lettings (13% of 166 plots), 18 to new tenants and 3 to existing plot holders. 8 of these plots became available after the incumbent tenant had been encouraged to give up their plot due to poor cultivation.

Improvements and repairs:

The biggest improvement on site 3 is the new arrangement for manure and wood chip. Having the manure and wood chip delivered on the main path was always a bad arrangement but the structure that Gregg Willcox designed and made is truly fantastic. The finishing touch of the much admired signs were done by Gary Rose. These storage bins have been an amazing success; they are functional, aesthetic, eco and did not cost much – what more could we want!

The water supply system continues to need propping up from time to time. It no longer is fit for purpose as it is an old installation which has been patched and repaired that has become a mixture of iron, copper and plastic pipe work cobbled together. It often springs a leak so fixing these is a never ending story. Many thanks to Alan Tribe and Ian Finch who have carried out repairs throughout the year. The plan is to replace the whole lot with plastic and have more standpipes throughout the site.

The toilet flush was a problem for some months and finally the flush button was lost so the whole mechanism was replaced. Thanks to Chris de Courcey, Patrick Savage and Ian Finch all of whom had a hand in getting it working. The flush is functioning well now.

Some plots that tenants have relinquished and were unlettable as they had been so neglected. Artan Deliallisi helped to get them into a state that has made it possible to let them.

Security:

There have been a few garden implements stolen throughout the year and some produce has been taken. However, annoyingly no perpetrator has been caught. Much of the annoyance is around the nasty, petty nature of the thieving and disrespect of plot holders' efforts and that the thieves are safe in the knowledge that they are very unlikely to be caught.

Plot inspections:

These took place in November, a mini one in March, full ones in May and July. An average of 10 plot holders (about 6%) needed to be contacted as their plots required some attention. Eight plot holders gave up their plots during this year having been told that the standard of cultivation was lacking.

Thanks: There are a lot of plot holders who generously give their time and talents to help site 3 work. Many thanks the team led by Vivien Fowler who keep the toilet clean and to Bob Aveling and Sheila Konig who run the bonfire party. There are also several plot holders who have helped with repairs, generally keeping the common areas tidy, giving advice and encouragement to new plot holders, helping others who might not be well. Also thanks to those for doing bits of plumbing, those who turn water on and off. Without all of this input by such a resourceful group of people Site 3 would grind to a halt and cease to function as a community so thank you all for your help and support.

Helen Finch

Site 3 Secretary