

Dear Plotholders,

We are hoping you are all well. We did a plot inspection a few weeks ago and on the whole the site is looking really good. Let's just hope the sun begins to shine as perhaps we have had enough rain for a bit!!

### **Annual GGAA Plot Competition**

Our highly successful plot competition will run again this year with the following 3 categories, Best Plot, Best Newcomer Plot and Best Flowers and this year a new prize for Best Water Harvesting.

As a reminder last year our winners were:-

#### **Our best newcomers plot went to**

1<sup>st</sup> Shelly and Neil Plot 49

2<sup>nd</sup> Mostafa Plot 100 and

3<sup>rd</sup> Raed Plot 63.

#### **Our best existing plotholders were**

1<sup>st</sup> Manny Plot 135

2<sup>nd</sup> Gabriel Plot 59 and

3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Plot 183.

**Best flowers prize** went to Audrey Plot 74.

We awarded a cash prize to all and lovely silver cups to Manny and Audrey. Although not done yet, they will be engraved this year with their names as winners for 2020 along with the winners for 2021.

We plan to judge our plots over the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July and will announce the winners by 30<sup>th</sup> July and award the prizes on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 3pm at the trading hut.

Best Newcomer will receive a prize of £60, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £40 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £30.

Best existing plots will receive the same prize money and in addition 1<sup>st</sup> prize will receive our Best Plot Cup to keep for one year.

Best Flowers will receive £25 and a cup to be kept for a year.

Best Water Harvesting will receive £25.

So if you want to improve your chances of winning a prize make sure your plot is extra neat and tidy, paths strimmed etc etc.

We will also be putting forward up to 6 plots on our site to the Barnet Federations Annual Plot Competition. If you want to put your plot up for this competition, please let us know asap. We will need to take photos of your plot which we will take over the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July and submit to the Federation by the 30<sup>th</sup> July. They look at these photos and choose their best plots in the Barnet.

Good luck!!

**Structures on your Plot!**

There are very firm rules about the area which can be covered with structures on your plot. Please remember a couple of points,

- All structures on plots should have the permission of the committee. A conversation needs to be had before any building work takes place of any description.
- All structures should be temporary, this means that they should be able to be taken down and removed from the site in a weekend.
- 80% of your allotment should be cultivated.
- The area which is covered, by sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels, should be no more than 20% and generally speaking these structures should be at the top end of your plot, not in the middle of it!
- If you are in any doubt about the size of shed, greenhouse or placement on your plot for these structures please refer to your plotholder handbook or come and have a chat!

Please remember that polytunnels use an enormous amount of water over the summer months, please use polytunnels to bring on plants during the spring months and when hardy remove the plastic from your polytunnel. You should be harvesting as much water as you can from rainfall. Have you got at least one water butt collecting water?

### **Paths**

Grass seed is now available in the trading hut so paths can be restored after the heavy rainfall during the winter.

Please can you make sure you maintain your paths and in theory each plotholder should only have to look after one path. They should be flat and grassed. If you are mowing or strimming also please don't forget the main paths – everyone needs to take responsibility for them!!

### **Instructions for planting grass seed**

- Plant grass seed between March to May or in September or October, when temperatures are above 10 degrees and the soil is moist and warm.
- Remove any dead grass, weeds or moss by scarifying / raking the area
- Rake the area enough so that the soil is loose
- Sow the seed at our recommended rate of 35g per m<sup>2</sup>, by using a seed spreader or your hand
- Rake the seed in after sowing so that the seed is in amongst the soil
- Firm down by foot or by using a roller to improve seed to soil contact
- Continue to water your grass deeply and regularly for the next six weeks, avoiding when it is raining
- Your grass will take up to 6 weeks to fully establish
- Once there is an even coverage throughout the lawn and grass blades are hitting heights of 5-7cm, your lawn is ready for its first mow

### **AGM**

We are looking to hold our AGM in the autumn, we will let you know when and how (either on the site or on Zoom) closer to the time.

**Bonfires**

Please remember these rules for this time of year.

- No bonfires from May until September
- No bonfires on West side Hendon Way and Tretawn allotments.

All the best  
GGAA