



GGAA Newsletter February 2021 – Spring is here!

Dear Plotholders,

For the first time ever, we have a fully let site, with the last 1.5 plots being let in the past couple of weeks. Welcome to those new plotholders and we hope you find our regular newsletters interesting.

A few seasonal reminders

Paths.

All paths between plots should be grass and kept in good condition. This is one of the rules imposed by Barnet Council. We have noticed some people have started to use wood chippings, slabs or just weed killer. We would like to get as many un grassed paths back to grass as possible so we will be providing free grass seed from the trading hut, enough for you to seed a path. Unfortunately we won't have the grass seed immediately as our regular supplier has shut. But we are urgently searching for a new one. There are many paths that are immaculate on the site, well-tended, strimmed and or mowed regularly with neat edges. This year we may have a competition for best kept path!! Each plot needs to agree with their neighbour which path they will take responsibility for and deal with it accordingly. On our next plot inspection this is one of the things we will be looking at.

Perimeter Fence along the brook

We would also like to remind those whose plots back onto the new permitter fence that you must maintain a meter wide gap between that fence and anything on your plot at all times. We will be looking at this on our next inspection. This is very important so please check asap and sort any encroachments out now rather than us having to ask you to move something. Plotholders along that fence are aware of this requirement!

Drainage

The wet period during the winter has shown, once again, the problems of drainage in certain areas on the site, which we know is quite distressing to those effected, even though it only happens usually during the winter. A few years ago, we did add extra drains in some areas with some success. There are older drains running down all the main paths except the most southerly one. We will be providing gravel, slotted pipe and instructions to those particularly effected this year so if you want to add links from your plot into the existing main drainage pipe then you can do so. Please discuss any plans with your neighbours, if they are also affected and let us know what you would like to do. We will arrange for pipe and gravel to be available from the trading hut when the ground has dried out enough.

We have mentioned in previous emails about collecting water in water butts putting guttering on your shed etc. Although this won't cure the flooding problem obviously it will help a little by collecting water, which is an important thing to do anyway especially with global warming. We do plan to have guttering available in the trading hut too hopefully cheaper than you will buy it in B&Q and more conveniently to be able to get it on our site.

We had our largest water bill ever for the site last year and so please be mindful this year of how you water. We will say more about this in a few months' time.

Sheds, Greenhouses and Polytunnels

We have rules about the height of sheds and size of sheds. We also have rules about only 20% of your plot can be given over to these temporary structures. However, there are a number of ploholders who are not keeping to this important rule. Sheds and green house's must be at the top end of your plot and side by side preferably. Greenhouses should not be put in the middle of your plot. If you insist on having a polytunnel then that too must be at the top end of your plot. Ploholders are getting better at discussing first their plans with us about size and position of temporary structures on their plot but even some of those are doing things that they have not asked permission for and when we do our next inspection, they may be asked to move these structures or get rid of them. So the motto here is to always ask one of us BEFORE you put up any temporary structures on your plot!

Potatoes and Onions

Trading hut is now stocked with potatoes and full range of seeds and fertilizers.

We are having trouble with onion sets as our regular supplier has shut. But we are urgently searching for a new one.

Our promised card machine is up and running so very convenient if you don't have cash!

Opening times for the hut are 1.30 - 3pm on a Saturday and 11.30 - 1pm on Sunday. **Please remember to wear a face mask** when you enter the trading hut and we can only have **one person in at a time.**

Many thanks GGAA