

## Allotments Newsletter August 2020

During National Allotments Week it is nice to be able to inform you that since lockdown began we have had a surge in applications. It is good to know that people see allotments as a benefit for their physical as well as their mental wellbeing. To this end, the council has agreed that priority on the waiting list will be given to new applicants who currently don't have a plot.

### Information Leaflets

We would like to remind you that Shepton Mallet Town Council is a member of The National Allotments Association and have some information leaflets that may be of interest to you:

- Safe use and disposal of garden care chemicals;
- Bee informed – when using insecticides in your garden;
- Clearing an overgrown plot;
- Planning out and designing an allotment plot;
- Health and safety on allotments;
- What can your plot do for wildlife;
- Taking your children to the plot;
- Water use on allotments;
- Honey bees and pollinators;
- Compost, bonfires and waste disposal;
- Devolved Management – what does it mean?

If you would like a copy, please ask.

### Annual Awards Judging

A councillor will be visiting the allotment sites before the end of this month to undertake the annual judging. This year, subject to Covid-19 restrictions being eased, it is hoped that a standalone awards evening can be held to recognise allotments and their benefits, as well as celebrate with the winners. At this event, we would like to display photos of your plots so can you please take some snaps you would be happy for us to use and share with us via email.

At this evening, we will be inviting a guest speaker from The National Allotments Association who can inform you how to go about forming an association to become self-managed (devolved management) as this is something that the council is keen to happen.

Details of the event to follow in due course.



### Agreements/Invoices

Owing to the pandemic and the unpredictability of any possible future spikes, we would like to use email to distribute invoices, contracts and newsletters. This would also lead to a cost saving of approximately £300 per annum. However, if you prefer to continue to receive documents by post, please let us know. Obviously, documents will be posted to those with no email.

The cost saving will be put towards assisting plot holders who have been affected by the pandemic. Those affected have already been in touch but if you are struggling to pay your fees, please contact us by one of the methods listed below.

If you receive your contract by email, we will ask you to reply accepting the terms and conditions or your acceptance will be received when we receive payment of your invoice. We are encouraging as many as possible to pay electronically - full details will be on your invoice.

### Annual Fees

As costs continue to rise it is necessary to move towards the allotments becoming cost neutral. At the Open Spaces Committee held on 28th July, a couple of options for increases were considered. It was agreed that the fees which will come into effect on 1st October 2021 will be: Small Plot - £26.00, Medium Plot - £39.00, Large Plot - £52.00.

#### Contact Details:

Email: [allotments@sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01749 343984

Write or call into the office at:

1 Park Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BS

Good luck with your inspections and don't forget to send us your photos.

Happy Gardening!!

