



Town Council Offices,
1 Park Road,
Shepton Mallet
BA4 5BS

t: 01749 343984

e: info@sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk

w: www.sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk

Meeting: Recreation, Amenities & Environment Committee, Item RAE4.10

Date: 19th October 2021

Author: Assistant Town Clerk (Planning & Amenities)

Subject: Allotments Officer Report

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update councillors on activity related to allotments that has occurred since the Recreation, Environment & Amenities Committee meeting on 10/08/2021.
- 1.2 To consider a request from an allotment holder to have livestock on their plot.

2.0 Annual Invoicing/Waiting List

- 2.1 The annual invoicing of allotments has taken place (sent out on 24/08/2021) and there are currently 3 plot holders who have not yet paid their rent, despite numerous attempts to contact them. They will be given until the end of October to pay, or notify the office of any issues with ability to afford the rent, or their tenancy will be terminated.
- 2.2 There are currently 9 plots vacant and 10 new applicants and 4 existing allotment holders on the waiting list. Vacant plots will be allocated once the invoicing issues have been finalised.

3.0 S106 Application

- 3.1 Part of the project which involved fencing the boundary of the Whitstone Road allotments and Allyn Saxon Drive will no longer be going ahead after consultation with allotment holders. The part of the fund allocated to these works will be repaid to MDC and the town council can re-bid for another project. The office is currently working on a list of proposed items.
- 3.3 Allotment holders will be advised when the office receives a date for the commencement of the works.

4.0 Annual Allotment Awards

4.1 On 3rd September, Cllrs Nicklin & Stadtruckerova, together with the Marketing, Communications and Community Engagement Officer, spent the morning judging the allotments for the annual awards.

4.2 The winners have been notified and invited to attend a ceremony before the town council meeting on 23rd November to receive their certificates and/or cups. The following has been sent to all allotment holders for their information:

<u>Allotment Site</u>	<u>Plot Number</u>	<u>Tenant Name</u>	<u>Award</u>
Allyn Saxon Drive	007	Mrs J Currie	Winner
Hitchen Lane	049	Ms N Parfitt	Winner
	045	Mrs B Bailey	Runner-up
	048	Mrs T Campbell	Highly Commended
	015	Mrs F Webber	Highly Commended
Whitstone Road	057	Mrs M Davis	Winner
	054	Mr R Witcombe	Runner-up
	061/063	Mrs L Meadows	Highly Commended

5.0 Request for Hens on Allotment

5.1 Background Information

5.2 Under Section 12 of the 1950 Allotments Act, the keeping of hens and rabbits is permitted on allotments. This is providing that they are kept for the tenants own use and not for business or profit. They must be kept in such a way so as not to be prejudicial to health or to cause a nuisance.

5.3 Section 6.1 of the council's allotment tenancy agreement states:

Livestock can be kept with the prior consent in writing of the Council. Livestock must be kept so that they are not prejudicial to health or a nuisance. (Such animals are not to be kept for trade or business purposes and accordingly to be limited in number, as per the written request.)

5.4 The office has received a request from an allotment holder at the Whitstone Road site to keep chickens (no cockerels will be permitted) but the town council doesn't currently have a policy to issue for guidance for applicants.

- 5.5 Councillors need to consider the following for the policy:
1. Which sites are appropriate for the keeping of livestock;
 2. The maximum amount of an allotment plot which can be given over to the keeping of livestock;
 3. The maximum number of animals per plot, and if required;
 4. The maximum number of animals on a site.
- 5.6. Once these criteria are established, a policy can be written which can give guidance to allotment holders to ensure that animals are kept appropriately and to the highest possible standards.

6.0 Town Plan Reference

6.1

Allotments	Continue to maintain and promote the allotment sites to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to grow their own
------------	---

7.0 Recommendations

For councillors to note the report and to:

- 7.1 Agree the basic criteria for the keeping of animals (hens/rabbits) on an allotment in order for the writing of a policy to be agreed at the next RAE meeting on 1st February 2022.