



# SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Dear Allotment Holders

Welcome to our Summer 2023 newsletter.

## **Information Leaflets**

We would like to remind you that Shepton Mallet Town Council is a member of The National Allotments Association ([www.nsalg.org.uk](http://www.nsalg.org.uk)) 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 (Allotment Association) – what does it mean?

If you would like any of the above, please contact the office and we can either email or post you a copy.

## **National Allotments Week**

This year, National Allotments Week will run from 7th-13th August with the theme of Soil Health. Good soil health is widely accepted as way to improve yield when growing edibles but also contributes positively to biodiversity and the environment as the world faces more climate challenges.

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### **Annual Allotment Awards**

Councillors have decided that the annual competition will be suspended for 2023. They are hoping to resurrect “Shepton in Bloom” in 2024 and will look to incorporate the allotment awards in this event with some new categories for judging – we will update you in due course when it is finalised.

### **Fees from October 2024**

As you are aware, there have been no increases to allotment fees for the past three years. However, owing to the rise in costs of water and fuel, on 23rd May 2023 the Recreation, Amenities & Environment Committee agreed a small increase to annual plot fees which will come into effect 1st October 2024:

Small plot will increase by £2 to £28;

Medium plot will increase by £3 to £42;

Large plot will increase by £4 to £56.

### **And finally.....**

We have undertaken site inspections during April and May and contacted those people whose plots need attention. Overgrown plots can be a nuisance to others and if you are struggling to maintain your plot, please let us know and we can take this into account when we visit. We are pleased to say that we currently have 11 new applicants on our waiting list, which means there is enthusiasm in Shepton Mallet for allotments.

### **Happy Gardening!**

