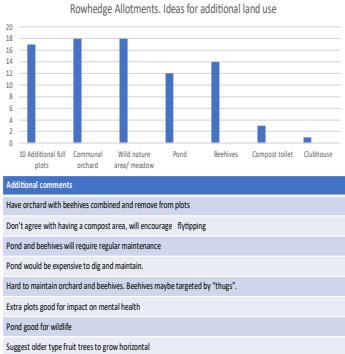


Rowhedge Allotments Committee Meeting

Thursday 25th January 2024 at 7pm

<p>Attendees Katrina Myers, Dave Myers, Paul Warner, Wendy Fransella (chair), Caroline Bates, Janet Livingstone, Debbie Antoniou, Zoe Hart, Martin Chapman, Clive Tanner, Penny Sturt, Sarah Sprackling (minutes).</p>		
<p>1. Update on plot tenancies and feedback to applicants</p>	<p>Three surrendered plots have been re-allocated to Guy & Zoe, Lucy & Jo, and Sally. There are currently 14 people on the waiting list. 10 are from Rowhedge and 4 from Colchester. Of the Rowhedge residents (who have priority) 2 are current holders wanting another half plot, 5 want a full plot, 2 want a half plot and 1 has not specified. It may be that the Colchester people never reach the top of the list due to the prioritisation protocol.</p>	<p>Actions: We will attempt to put an update on the website about the waiting list. We will also print a poster with rowlots email on so that people can enquire for updates.</p>
<p>2. Committee membership</p>	<p>There have been several people leave the Committee and others join. The attendees today make up the current committee.</p>	<p>Further interest in joining the Committee will be encouraged.</p>
<p>3. Plan for land use/ creation of extra plots/ liaison with EDPC</p>	<p>The options voted for by members</p>  <p>Caroline has looked at National Lottery funding as a possibility for fencing and a composting toilet. There are also other funding possibilities (e.g. Garfield Weston Foundation) that could be explored.</p>	<p>Wendy and Caroline to attend the EDPC meeting to discuss funding and update on options.</p>

	<p>Priority planning for the new plots: Fencing Water supply Ploughing</p>	<p>A subcommittee will look at the planning priorities for the new plots – Paul, Martin, Caroline, Janet and Dave.</p>
<p>4. Recent vandalism and security.</p>	<p>Recently there was a couple of thefts from sheds. No one showed up on the camera so had avoided the main entrance.</p> <p>Paul had priced up replacing the current fencing with a 1.8m fence for increased security - £6K + installation. There was discussion and it was felt that this was not a practical or desirable option.</p> <p>A second container would cost approx. £4.5k. People could have the option to store their tools in the secure container. There is room in the existing container and keys can be given out to ploholders with a £20 deposit.</p> <p>Planting pyracantha was also discussed as a deterrent from people coming in from the road.</p>	<p>Sarah will email ploholders to gauge interest in using the container for storage.</p>
<p>5. Banking arrangements- co-signatories and debit card.</p>	<p>There are now new signatories so current signatories are Caroline, Debbie, Paul, Martin, Wendy and Dave.</p> <p>Caroline is planning to look into a debit card.</p>	
<p>6. Admin and website.</p>	<p>Chrisitan established the website some years ago and now that he has left the committee he would like to hand this over.</p> <p>There was discussion around establishing an updated website which could include online payments, accounts, membership spreadsheets etc.</p>	<p>Caroline to set up a zoom demonstration of a system that could cover this.</p>
<p>7. AOB</p>	<p>Communication has been received from National Allotment Society regarding the need to have registered Trustees. Some concern was expressed</p>	<p>Caroline will explore further and look at how other groups have responded.</p>

	<p>about what this involves and the legal financial position.</p> <p>Janet has not received any further volunteers for the mowing rota. There was discussion about the need to make plotholders aware of the need to take on roles as part of the community. More people on the rota would lessen the frequency of each person having to mow.</p> <p>Next meeting will be AGM Sunday 23rd June. Time and location to be confirmed.</p>	<p>Sarah to email plotholders.</p>
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