

Charlestown Allotment site inspection report 17th August 2016

Conducted by Cllrs Carol King and Mick Davies

Two plot holders present on site working their plots

General

The common areas under the PC's control remain scruffy and need attention.

1. The Road side

The road side needs some attention

- Light overhanging tree branches need lopping
- Brambles need cutting back
- Bag of rubbish by entrance needs to be removed

2. The Main entrance path

The main entrance path was clear and dry but the path side vegetation needs to be cut back. It was noted that the addition of some hard core had improved the drainage situation at the bottom.

Ferns, brambles, some light overhanging branches and a small patch of balsam need attention alongside the path

3. At the top of the path

The community benches are surrounded by weeds (and in one case by nettles).

There was no evidence of dog fouling and the wire fruit bush cages seem to be doing an excellent job

Next planned cut is required soon and a small working party could easily complete the other work in a couple of hours with manual equipment.

The community shrubs outside of the perimeter fence at the front of the site are in variable condition. Some have been well looked after and others are suffering some degree of neglect. Many were under pressure from weeds.

The Allotment Area

The perimeter fence looked to be in good repair but the gate tension should be adjusted to prevent it dragging when opened.

The overall impression is somewhat patchy. Two plot holders have been unable to work their plots because they have been living away having been affected by flooding. This had resulted in two fairly wild plots that were ready to burst forth with weed seeds. The newly-let plot is making very good progress but the path inside the perimeter at the front of the site needed attention by plot 7 where the

shed also required attention to make the roof felt secure and watertight. The other stalwart plot holders continue to be a credit to the site. The path at the far end of the site, next to The Naze and the communal areas at the back of the site needed attention in terms of strimming, weed clearance, balsam removal, and general tidying-up.

The site overall has shown some deterioration over the previous year and this is of some concern. It is hoped that the acquisition of a petrol strimmer will make the maintenance of paths and the allotment communal areas easier over the coming year.

The PC will be asked to organise a working session on the public areas of the site and it may be possible to assist ploholders in need of significant clearing work at the same time.

The PC will directly approach any ploholders where there is a specific cause for concern to indicate any improvements that may be required in time for a further inspection timed for the spring.