

# WOODLEY ALLOTMENT TENANTS ASSOCIATION

## SPECIAL BULLETIN – 40



### Year End Assessment of the Allotment Site

As 2019 comes to a close and as chairman of the Association, I thought it would be a good idea to review our site and note what changes have happened over recent years and what improvements we can all help with over the coming growing season. I hope that you will understand my comments which are always made to encourage a positive and safe community site that can be enjoyed by all plot holders. As always, I look forward to any feedback that you have about our comments.

Over the past few years we have seen a great improvement in the general state of the whole site; with many of the long term unworked plots being handed over to new tenants, in fact over 40 new tenants have joined our community since January 2018. More and more tenants are installing Poly Tunnels & Sheds and our involvement in the very successful Launchpad Project is gaining our site a very good reputation both in and around Woodley & Reading and all credit must go to Carolyn Davies and her team for driving this project on.

A positive effect of all of these improvements can be seen through the increase in the number of people on the waiting list, which is now up to 18. People really do now want to come and join our successful allotment community.

However, despite all the positive things happening on the site, we now have to deal with what can be at best described as an increase in anti-social behaviour.

Despite numerous pleas, notices, speed signs and regular reminders in the newsletter, there is a very small hard core of tenants who continually drive around the site at speeds four or five times the site limit!

We are experiencing regular thefts from the site and sadly in two specific instances we know that fellow tenants were responsible. Littering is also now becoming an issue, the photo below was taken on L row.



Why would anyone not take their own litter home?

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The consequences of these types of anti-social behaviour can be seen with regards to the new restrictions that have been placed on all of us regarding bonfires.

Again, despite a number of mentions in the Newsletter and Special Bulletins about timings and wind checks for Bonfires, it seems a few plot holders did not care what they were doing and were having large bonfires generating thick black smoke, in the height of last summer, (when temperatures were in the 30's) flooding adjacent roads/resident gardens with the smoke. Some would call this anti-social and inconsiderate.

Following a string of complaints to Woodley Town Council, the net result is now a total ban on all bonfires during the summer months due to pressure from home owners adjacent to the site. The new restrictions will be included in the 2020's tenancy agreement. It is also my understanding that the council will be very strict in enforcing these new Bonfire timing rules.

The message from myself and the whole committee is clear; on behalf of the overwhelming majority of tenants we will not tolerate this anti-social behaviour. We are also taking steps to further secure the site and will actively pursue thieves, but we need more input from the tenants.

I would encourage all tenants to let us know if there is something that is causing you issues. Don't turn a blind eye, if you see something that looks suspicious; tell us via the normal email address. If you have had something stolen from your plot/shed/poly-tunnel, tell us via the normal email address. If you see someone driving recklessly around the allotment site, please provide us with details via the normal email address.

This should be a collective effort and every tenant should have an input in helping the site run smoothly and efficiently.

On other positive points, The BeeRoadzz, Bug Hotel projects are moving forward and we hope to have a number of Bee Hives up and running on site next year. The Landscaping and Pond construction by the gate will be completed in the spring, weather permitting.

We are always open to any ideas on how to further improve the environment and overall quality of our community allotment site, so do please let me know via the normal email address below.

Finally, I would like to send best wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy a New Year from myself and all your committee.

Many thanks  
Scott Golding  
Chairman

[readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk)