

Allotment report by Assistant to Town Clerk for February 2024 meeting

The December allotment inspection was undertaken on 19th December, the notes are below.

Current vacancies are noted below:

Cherry Gardens (total plots 48) 1 plot available although offered to a prospective tenant 22.1.24 (no waiting list)
Netherfield Hill (total plots 7) 4 vacancies – 1 new tenant from 22.1.24
Virgins Croft (total plots 17) no vacancies (waiting list of 2 people although they may be happy to share)
Watch Oak (total plots 25) 1 vacancy

Cherry Gardens

Leading up to Christmas a report was received, from local tenants, of a cockerel being on the allotment site. The tenant was contacted who advised they were not aware they had a cockerel but fertilised eggs had been brought onto the plot and it takes several weeks to determine the sex of a chicken. Their rehoming option was closed for the Christmas period when the matter was raised so the bird was taken home by the tenant each night and returned to the plot during the day. It is understood that the cockerel has now been rehomed.

Allotment inspection report 19th December 2023

Inspection carried out by Assistant Town Clerk & member of grounds staff

Cherry Gardens – Site generally in good condition.

1 message required to a tenant requesting caps be placed on pipes and canes along the boundary. Following reports of a cockerel being on the site the tenant has been contacted to request bird be removed immediately. Visually staff were not able to determine which bird is the cockerel (see report entry above).

Staff to carry out path works when the weather is suitable.

Netherfield Hill – only 2 plots with tenants.

Southern Housing have undertaken considerable cut of development land.

Staff to clear vacant plot which has deteriorating wire fence and hopefully create a structure to maximise water capture.

Watch oak – Site generally in good condition.

1 message required to a tenant to request removal of matting membrane laid across a length of path beside their plot.

Staff to fill a large hole, formerly a pond, on a boundary plot.

Virgins Croft – Site in good order.

Staff are planning to cut back boughs from Hornbeam tree to reduce shading and prevent shed damage when weather permits.