



Ware Town Council

Report of	Cemetery & Allotments Officer
Report to	Community & Environment Committee
Date	Monday 22 May 2023
Subject	Cemetery and Allotments Report

Decisions to be Taken

1. The Council is asked to consider which members of the Council will participate in the judging of the Allotment Competition - Round 1: Tuesday 11th July and Round 2: Tuesday 18th July

Allotment Waitlist Report

There is currently a total of 48 people on the waiting list covering both sites. Ten of these are new waiting list applicants, who have applied since the last C&E meeting in February 2023.

Site	# on Waitlist	# of Vacant Plots
Crosspath Field (King George Road)	5	0
Warehouse Field (Widbury Hill)	43	13

There are 6 people on the Warehouse Field waiting list who have shared, over the last 6 months, they do not feel in a position to take on an allotment plot at this time. I will periodically contact them to see if their situation has changed and what their wishes are in regards to remaining on the waiting list. Those remaining on the waiting list does not impact those further down the list.

I am actively working with the Chair of the Ware Allotment & Garden Society (WAGS) to offer the vacant plots out to those on the waiting list. Contact is made with each person next on the waiting list to offer them the opportunity to view the plots. At times this can be a slow process, as people do not always respond to our attempts to make contact. When there is a persistent lack of response, I will write to those individuals and advise if we do not hear from them by a certain date, they will be removed from the waiting list.

Allotment Inspections

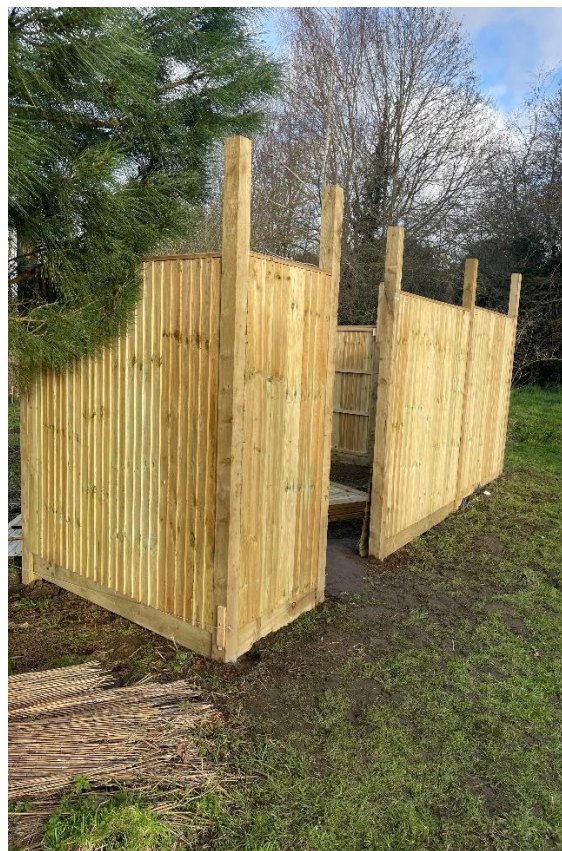
Allotment inspections are taking place throughout May, whereby all plots across both sites will be inspected. This is a total of 193 plots. Each plot holder will receive a copy of their individual inspection report. Those required, will receive follow up inspections after 2 months to see if the requested work or action has been undertaken. There will also be a further general inspection of both sites in the autumn / winter time. However, throughout the year individual inspections can be completed as/when concerns be raised about specific plots.

Community Orchard

There has been no further update received from the Committee managing the Community Orchard.

Beekeeping at Warehouse Field site

As previously shared, it has been agreed for James Griffiths to use the same area used before at Warehouse Field for his beekeeping. Attached is a copy of James' plan, along with the photos below of his progress so far.



Sunflower Competition

As previously agreed, we are opening our Sunflower Competition to all children and adults within Ware. Last year, the competition was only open to the children of allotment holders. This year the competition will have two categories for both the children and adult groups – Tallest Sunflower and Biggest Flower Head. We have notified people of the competition via our noticeboards, website, social media, Ware Town Council Newsletter and via school newsletters. The closing date for entries to be emailed to the Allotment Officer is midnight on 31st August 2023.

Cemetery Topple Testing

Headstone topple testing is to be completed this year at Ware Cemetery. Matthew Watkins is securing a company to undertake this work. Topple testing is required by Law to ensure all cemeteries are deemed safe. The work involves a headstone's stability being tested by hand to ensure it is not at risk of falling over. This previously became a statutory requirement following the death of a child visiting a London cemetery. If a headstone is considered unsafe measures are taken to minimise the risk and where necessary, the legal registered owner of the grave space is required to fix or replace the headstone. Due to its sensitive nature, prior to the work commencing, we will notify the Town via notices, social media and our Newsletter.