



Ware Town Council

Report of Cemetery & Allotments Officer
Report to Community & Environment Committee
Date Monday 23 September 2024
Subject Cemetery and Allotments Report

FULL COUNCIL DECISION REQUIRED:-

Allotment Fees – 2025/2026

The allotment charge for October 2024 is £7.50 per pole. We are proposing to increase this to **£9.50** per pole for the annual invoices in October 2025.

Changes to Allotment Tenancy Agreement

Under Clause 2.11 of the current tenancy, plot holders can only have 1 structure on their plot – either a shed or a greenhouse. Working with members of the Ware Allotments & Garden Society (WAGS) we have reviewed this and are proposing to update the Tenancy Agreement.

We propose plot holders be allowed the following:-

- 5 - 10 pole plots can have a shed, a greenhouse and a polytunnel
 - Plots under 5 poles can have a shed and either a greenhouse or a polytunnel
 - Shed size: no larger than 6ft x 4ft
 - Greenhouse size: no larger than 6ft x 8ft
 - Polytunnel size: no larger than 10ft x 13ft
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Allotment Waitlist Report

There is currently a total of **7** people on the waiting list covering both sites (this was at 32 in February and 15 in July).

Site	# on Waitlist	# of Vacant Plots
Crosspath Field (King George Road)	1	2
Warehouse Field (Widbury Hill)	6	8

There are 2 people on the waiting list for Warehouse Field who already have a plot but would like an additional one.

The person on the Crosspath waiting list is waiting for a plot in a particular plot area of the site (we are in the process of offering a plot in this specific area).

Allotment Inspections

The annual allotment inspections have been completed, whereby all 204 tenanted plots across both sites have been viewed and findings recorded. Following the inspections, 10 plot holders made individual decisions to terminate their tenancies.

Re-inspections were required for 14 plots (of which 5 were deemed in 'poor' condition) for the Crosspath site, and 42 (of which 18 were deemed in 'poor' condition) for the Warehouse Field site. So far, I have issued 12 plots with Notices of Intent to Terminate, which gives the holder's 30 days notice to complete the necessary work or make contact with the Allotments Officer to discuss their plans. At this time, one of the Notices has resulted in a Notice to Quit being issued and the holder's tenancy terminated.

Plot holders are encouraged to share (prior to and throughout the inspection process) if there is anything that could impact their ability or opportunity to work their plot, as this will always be taken into account as part of the inspection.

Annual Allotment Competition

The judging of the Allotment Competition has been completed, with first and second winners being identified (listed below). The Awards will take place on Monday 28th October, before the Full Council meeting. Invites have been sent to all Councillors. Both Mayor. Martin Butcher and Councillor. Graeme Hill have kindly agreed to present the awards.

<u>CROSSPATH</u>	<u>WAREHOUSE FIELD</u>
<p>First Prize - Best Kept Allotment David Smith & Claire Lovegrove - CR030</p>	<p>First Prize - Best Kept Allotment Daniel Rook - WA104A</p>
<p>Second Prize - Best Kept Allotment Alan Norris - CR029B</p>	<p>Joint Second Prize - Best Kept Allotment Ian Bridges - WA023 & Lynn Corbett - WA094A</p>
<p>Award for Best Kept Allotment by a Newcomer Stephen Hubbard - CR026B</p>	<p>Award for Best Kept Allotment by a Newcomer Anthony Copeland - WA031B</p>
<p>SHORTLISTED FOR JUDGING Zeph Landers - CR015A (Newcomer) Carolyn Phipers - CR032C (Newcomer) David Nye - CR003 Sarah Tooke - CR009A Samantha Harvey - CR011A Andrew Robinson - CR012B Jane Hazelwood - CR017A</p>	<p>SHORTLISTED FOR JUDGING Ian Channel - WA050B (Newcomer) Laura Tamburello - WA061B (Newcomer) Heidi Pateman - WA048A James Upton - WA049B Rebecca Bendix - WA063A Robert Baker - WA075 Mark Buswell - WA078B Paul Duff - WA088</p>