

Hill Drive Allotments Association

Matters of Concern in relation to Hill Drive Allotments

1. **Overgrown trees and shrubs.** Some Allotment plots backing on to the rear gardens of houses on Hill Drive have tall and overgrown trees and hedges along the border of their plots. The trees and bushes create shade and lead to areas that cannot be cultivated due to tree roots and shade. The tenancy agreement for plot holders on the allotments, does not allow tenants to, prune, cut or fell trees on their plots. Plots of specific concern are; plots, 2, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5, 6, 8 and 9a. It is requested that Bingham Town Council contact the landlord (Rushcliffe Borough Council) and request a programme of remedial action. It is further requested that BTC review the lease of the allotment site to clarify with the landlord, who is responsible for boundary security and the maintenance of trees and bushes to the boundary to the North of the site.
2. **Plot boundaries.** Over recent years it has been noted that, the central road way giving access from Gardeners Close, has reduced in width, making access by tenants requiring their private car on site to deliver or remove large items, hazardous. Encroachment of plots onto the road way has been the main factor in the reduction of width. Tenants planting perennial crops like Rhubarb and Raspberry canes in close proximity to the road and a self seeded non productive Cherry tree on plot 3b are other causes. Some examples are; plots 11b, 22 and 23a. The planting of perennial crops in close proximity to the edge of the roadway also creates problems when the grass is cut by the Council.
3. **Variation of plot dimensions.** Boundary lines marking the boundaries of plots not clearly defined by a fence or path are causing variations to plot sizes stated on the tenancy agreement. An example in question was the result in reduction of rent for plot 14 due to encroachment of land by the tenant on plot 15. This resulted in the loss of rental income to BTC.
4. **Tenancy Agreement.** A proposed amended draft copy of a new Tenancy Agreement was submitted to BTC for approval. It is now almost 2 years since this was submitted to the Council, too date nothing has been forth coming as to whether any action has or is being taken on the proposed amendment changes.
5. **Dedicated Parking Area.** There are no allocated marked cars parking slots for the use of allotment tenants at the access gates on Gardeners Close. There are however, unallocated car parking spaces near the access to the allotments at Gardeners Close, which have always been deemed by tenants as for their use. The houses on Gardeners Close have all been allocated 2 and in some cases 3 car parking slots to each property which are clearly marked with the house number. Tenants needing to drive some distance from their home address to the allotments often find no available slots to park in. The Council are requested to look into the allocation of the unmarked car parking slots for use by allotment tenants. If approved, could suitable signage be placed near the area to state; "reserved for Allotment holders only".
6. **Access on to Allotments.** At the boundary of plot 3b and the rear of the house on Hill Drive, there is no fence or barrier. Could the Council define who is responsible in providing a barrier between the 2 properties? This is seen as a health and safety issue if a small child were to gain access on to the allotment site and suffer an injury.

The Association Committee would also like to see a reinstatement of regular reviews with the Council and a commitment to a timetable to address our concerns.