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LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY GOLD

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	2nd May 2024
Report Title	Leisure Garden Report
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Jackie Fawcett, Office Administrator

Leisure Garden Inspections
The first Leisure Garden inspections of 2024 took place on Tuesday 23rd April. Plot holders were given 3 weeks' notice prior to the inspections. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces and Administrator inspected all 3 sites; taking in to account the wet start to the growing season.

Following the inspections, polite reminders and non-cultivation letters were sent out to tenants (see below):

Current Stats

Site	Number of Plots	Waiting list
Rose Walk (RW)	**79**	**14**
Goodearl (GE)	**46**	**10**
Ventnor Close (VC)	**51**	**6**
Tadpole		**30**
Any Plot		**10**

Inspection Stats

Site	Number of Plots	Polite reminder letter	Non-cultivation letter	Vacant plots (through latest comms)
Rose Walk (RW)	**79**	**5**	**1**	**2**
Goodearl (GE)	**46**	**7**	**2**	**3**
Ventnor Close (VC)	**51**	**4**	**4**	**1**

This exercise did result in two tenants no longer wanting their Leisure Gardens.

The inspections will be done every month during the growing season.

Tenants have been offered the opportunity to reduce the size of their plots if they are finding them too large to maintain.

Annual Leisure Garden Competition
Save the dates: Monday 23rd July / Saturday 17th August 2024
The 2024 Leisure Garden Competition will be launched on Monday 17th June.
The Marketing & Events Co Ordinator will create posters and a social media campaign to share with tenants.

Leisure Garden judging is due to take place on Tuesday 23rd July and Councillors are invited to be involved in the judging panel.

Winners are to be announced at the start of the Summer Extravaganza campaign and the intention is to incorporate the prize giving ceremony at the event finale on Saturday 17th August.

Correspondence
To save costs, the Office Administrator continues to improve the paperless system by obtaining email contact information for more of the tenants. Currently 56 tenants have not supplied / or do not have an email for correspondence.

Grounds Maintenance Facility – Communications With Plot Holders
A letter was sent to plot holders at Goodearl and Rose Walk sites on Monday 22nd April 2024, with an update on the Grounds Maintenance Facility plans and offering storage space for tools in the remaining shipping container left on site.

Annual Plot Holders Meeting
Save the date: Monday 7th October 2024
Communications will go out to plot holders a month before.

Leisure Garden Rents
The Deputy RFO/Finance Officer will be taking the new leisure garden rent suggestions to Finance & Policy Committee in June and the rent notifications will be sent in August ready for official invoicing in September. The rent year is 1st October – 30th September.

Leisure Garden Newsletter
A trial newsletter is to be created which will hopefully build the leisure garden community. First issue to be published to coincide with the Annual Leisure Garden competition – suggested content could be upcoming dates, share information relating to site, stats, etc. It would be good to have a representative from each site who can provide regular articles to support leisure gardeners.