

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 13 th June 2023
Report Title	Leisure Gardens
Agenda Reference	12
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager Darriel New, Administrator

Officer's Recommendation

1. To note any matters arising from the Leisure Garden Sites.
2. To note a complaint about bonfires at Ventnor Close Allotment and consider next steps (if any).

Background

The Council has three leisure garden sites, namely, Rose Walk and Goodearl on Old Blunsdon Road in Haydon Wick and Ventnor Close Allotments off Shanklin Road in Moredon. The Council has previously had an aspiration to create a leisure garden site at Tadpole Field.

Waiting List

There are 32 people on the waiting list for the working sites and interest of 52 people for the updates on Tadpole Field plans. On average, it takes approximately two years from joining the waiting list to receiving a plot.

Inspections

The inspections take place every month throughout March – October. So far, there has been three inspections and the fourth is due on Wednesday 14th June. The inspections are conducted by the Head of Parks & Open Spaces and the Administrator.

So far this season 15 Non-Cultivation letters asking plot holders to improve the condition of their plots were sent at the last inspection and one Notice to Quit was sent, as the Non-Cultivation letters had not been actioned. Usually improvement is seen within a week or so of receiving the letter or contact is made explaining why the plot has not yet been maintained.

Leisure Garden Competition

The Leisure Garden competition is due to take place on Thursday 13th July 2023 from 1pm – 3pm as part of a routine inspection. Any Councillors interested in joining the judging panel please contact Dave Hunt on POSTManager@haydonwick.gov.uk. Criteria will be shared with the judges and plot holders ahead of the competition.

Community Plot at Ventnor

The Community Plot assigned to the Community Development Team has been planted with potatoes and squash and weeded. The Co-Op Funeral Directors has assigned a team of volunteers to assist with the remaining aspects of getting the project up and running. This will enable the team to get local schools involved with planting and perhaps some team building events for the Council staff.

Bonfires

The terms and conditions do not allow for bonfires to take place on plots at Rose Walk and Goodearl. However, incinerators are allowed on some Ventnor Close plots as original tenants joined with Swindon Borough Council's terms and conditions prior to Haydon Wick Parish Council taking over the site in 2017.



A resident in Bryony Way has recently complained about bonfire smoke at inappropriate times. The resident was informed that they could contact the Borough Council about this, and the National Allotment Society gave advice that there was no statutory law regarding bonfires in allotments as each authority is different.

The resident would like the Council to review this and speak with plot holders asking them to be considerate to nearby homeowners. The Council has no way of policing bonfires at Ventnor Close but could look for evidence upon routine inspections and write to individual plot holders accordingly.