

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	13 th July 2021
Report Title	Leisure Gardens
Agenda Reference	14
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager

Officer's Recommendation

There are no recommendations.

Background

The Allotment Package has now been updated and is fit for purpose. Several plots have not been allocated recently due to the impending Parks & Open Spaces Team ground facility. Some of the vacant plots at Rose Walk have now been allocated to displaced plot holders at Goodearl. These plots have been allocated free of charge for the remainder of this year and next year, whilst they get settled into their new plots. The vacant plots have been maintained by the Parks & Open Spaces Team to keep any weeds from spreading.

Waiting List

There is currently 65 people on the waiting list for Goodearl or Rose Walk – see below Tadpole is counted separately. During the pandemic there was an increase of approximately 55 people requesting to be added to the waiting list a leisure garden plot. Upon joining the waiting list, the resident is asked to provide their preferred site – Rose Walk, Goodearl, Ventnor Close or Tadpole Lane. When a plot becomes available at each site the Officers work through the waiting list and try to allocate a preferred site, if the preferred site isn't available, other sites are offered and the resident then has the option to take another site or remain on the waiting list until there is space on their preferred site. Several residents choose to walk to their allotments and naturally pick the ones closest to their homes.

The first people on the waiting list have been waiting since January 2019, they were recently offered vacant plots in 2021 but decided to wait until their preferred site became available. Currently on the waiting list:

- 13 have requested Rose Walk (Site 1)
- 5 have requested Goodearl (Site 2)
- 47 have not given a preferred site
- There is also a separate waiting list of 27 for Tadpole Lane.

Inspections

From the previous inspection on 22nd June 2021, six (6) non cultivation letters were sent. An inspection is due to take place on 8th July 2021, a verbal update will be given during the meeting of the outcome.

Allotment Competition

The allotment competition is due to be judged on Wednesday 14th July 2021.

Allotment & Leisure Garden Terms & Conditions

These are being reviewed by the Officers and an amended copy will be brought to the Committee in August 2021. The new document will be taken to Finance & Policy in September when agreeing the rent renewal pricing and a copy will be sent out with the rent letters.