

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	2 nd June 2026
Report Title	Leisure Garden Report
Agenda Reference	12
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Recommendations

1. Support request for the competition judging on Tuesday 23rd June.
2. To advise on the seating request RW18B/18D

Leisure Garden Representatives

The Leisure Garden Representatives programme has proved extremely successful. Site representatives actively support the administrator across a range of responsibilities, including site inspections, contributing content for the newsletter, and addressing other relevant queries as they arise. Currently, collaborative plans are underway to establish a stall at the Summer Extravaganza, where surplus stock will be sold with all proceeds donated to the Council's chosen charity.

Leisure Garden Inspections

To date, we have 5 inspection dates booked:

1	Friday 13 th March
2	Friday 24 th April
3	Friday 5 th June
	Tuesday 23rd June (Competition Judging)
4	Friday 7 th August
5	Friday 25 th September

As previously, after the inspections, polite reminders and non-cultivation letters were dispatched to tenants (see below). Additionally, the Office Administrator has been making 'Well Being' calls to those tenants identified by their representatives as not maintaining their plots.

Upcoming events:

1	Wednesday 27 th May	Social picnic – Ventnor Close
2	Thursday 28 th May	Craft and Connect – plein air drawing in the memory garden

Current Stats

Site	Number of Plots	Vacant plots	Waiting list
Rose Walk (RW)	79	0	11
Goodearl (GE)	46	0	2
Ventnor Close (VC)	51	1*	2
Tadpole			33
Any Plot			3



Inspection Stats

Site	Number of Plots	Polite reminder letter / call	Non-cultivation letter	Vacant plots (through latest comms)
Rose Walk (RW)	79	2	1	1
Goodearl (GE)	46	2	4	0
Ventnor Close (VC)	51	1	2	1

The POS team has been instructed to promptly cover terminated plots with tarpaulins in order to help prevent weed growth.

Annual Leisure Garden Competition

Save the dates: Tuesday 23rd June

The 2026 Leisure Garden Competition has been launched.

The administrator has created posters and an email will be sent to all plot holders.

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

Winners are to be announced during National Allotment Week (10th -16th August) and prizes will be presented at the Annual Meeting on October 5th.

Grounds Maintenance Facility – Opening

We will be inviting our Leisure Gardeners to the official opening of the GMF on 28th July.

Annual Plot Holders Meeting

Save the date: Monday 5th October 2026

Communications will go out to plot holders a month before.

Notice Boards

Notice boards have now been installed across all three sites. Our administrator will maintain them regularly and ensure that all required information is clearly displayed.

Seating request

An elderly tenant has requested permission from the council to install a picnic table and bench on the strip of land adjacent to the bowling club fence, next to his plots, to provide a place to sit and rest (RW18B/18D). He has confirmed that he will maintain the surrounding area—keeping the hedge trimmed and grass tidy—and ensure that the installation does not obstruct the POS team.

Terms and Conditions – to be noted

A tenant at the Ventnor Close site submitted a request for permission to erect a metal-framed polytunnel on Plot 31. Given that the Council had previously granted permission for a structure of comparable size, approval was duly granted.