

NEWSLETTER – January 2024

A warm welcome to our first Newsletter of the year and especially to our new plot holders!

1. Committee update

Your committee held their first meeting of the year, and the minutes are available on our website and have been put up on our noticeboard.

The main announcement is that Sam Whatley will be standing down as Secretary. Over the last year she has worked with Lesley to transfer over all the Secretary's responsibilities. I'm sure you will agree, Sam has been an absolute fantastic Committee Secretary and has worked tirelessly in the background keeping everything in order. We can't thank you enough! She will still be around to help Lesley should she need it, but Lesley now officially takes on the role of Secretary.

The main object of the meeting was to create a 2024 Working Party and Events Calendar so you can all see what is coming in advance. This way, we hope that more of you can attend and help out. The calendar is attached, but it is also on the noticeboard and website.

Please look through the Working Party section. We would hope that **everyone** could attend at least one throughout the year and with that, please email us which one you will be helping out with. If you can do more than that would be fabulous.

We will send out reminders 1 week before each one as well.

The first Working Party is on Saturday 27th January, 10am-12noon and this is to help clear and tidy up the interior of our community shed. If you are afraid of spiders this one is not for you! Brooms, cleaning cloths etc will be provided along with refreshments and biscuits.

Our Treasurer, John, is currently looking into and applying for Lottery funding to have the community shed renovated including a new roof but these things take time, hence we will try and make the most of what we have for now.

Please email us if you are going to join us.

2. Site update

A working Party has been scheduled to help improve our site's roads. This will involve 40 tonnes of recycled road chippings being put down to help with flooding. Our site is open for cars but please be aware of certain areas which have been closed off due to the road being very muddy/flooded and not suitable for cars. We will monitor things as the weather improves (!) but for now please take care and keep your speed down to 3mph as this helps protect the roads.

We discussed at length the options for keeping the toilets open over the winter period. Currently, our lease with the council dictates we have to turn the water off over winter but this also stops pipes freezing and leaks appearing. As the toilets don't have their own separate mains supply, they must close. See the minutes for

the full details, but we will be looking into sorting out a rainwater collection tank option as a temporary fix. This will allow for minimal use, flushing only, while the water is switched off.

The sharing shed foundations have been laid and we are now just waiting for better weather to allow it to be fixed and put up.

3. First aid kit

Those of you who have been to our site recently or seen on our Facebook Group, we have now added a fully stocked First Aid kit to the front of the community shed, underneath our noticeboard. Should you need to use any items, kindly email us with what you have used so we can keep it fully stocked.

4. Biodiversity update

The designated wildlife area behind the community shed now has a log pile and we will use the branches left over from the hedge cutting to build a support for native climbers to cover the gaps in the perimeter hedge. Plotholder Matt Fletcher says he is looking into sourcing the climbers. There may be enough for some of the other gaps around our site too. Once some pallets have been sourced, we will build a large insect habitat with living roof.

5. Asian Hornet

We have put a poster up on the noticeboard covering this very important topic. We have been informed that this year could see a rise in these creatures coming over from France. Please all make yourselves aware of how to identify them and stay well away as they are very aggressive. The poster explains what to do should you see one.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 27th

Bill, Sam, John, Lesley, Graham, Rob, Denis, Bob and Joan