

September's Newsletter

Wrześniowy biuletyn informacyjny - Вересневий інформаційний бюлетень -
Септемврийски бюлетин - 9 月時事通訊 - Buletini i shtatorit - Septembarski bilten
- Szeptemberi hírlevél - Rugsėjo mėnesio naujienlaiškis - सितंबर का न्यूज़लेटर -

We hope this newsletter finds you well and a warm welcome to our new plot holders.



Annual General Meeting

A big thank you to those who attended our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 14th September and BBQ that followed on after. We hope you found it useful and we really appreciated all your inputs, ideas and suggestions. The minutes from the meeting are attached for those who couldn't make it and they will also be displayed on our noticeboard and added to our website/Facebook Group in due course.

In summary, our Chairman Bill Whatley reported successful completion of drainage works and a new mains pipe, eliminating past flood issues. He also announced future plans to separate the toilet water supply, keeping facilities open year-round.

Financially, our Treasurer, John O'Connell reported that our allotment is healthy with rents exceeding expectations. Major expenditures included road resurfacing and drainage projects, alongside purchases of new equipment. A lottery grant of £20,000 has allowed for the commencement of our shed roof refurbishment in November. However, reserves will be tight post completion.

Our Membership Secretary, Lesley Adnett advised that only 9 plots are vacant as at the time of the meeting and a waiting list system is now implemented. She went over the Plot Maintenance Letters and what they mean, along with a request for plot numbers to be displayed clearly.

Three proposals were then voted on and approved, the full details of which are in the minutes but in summary:

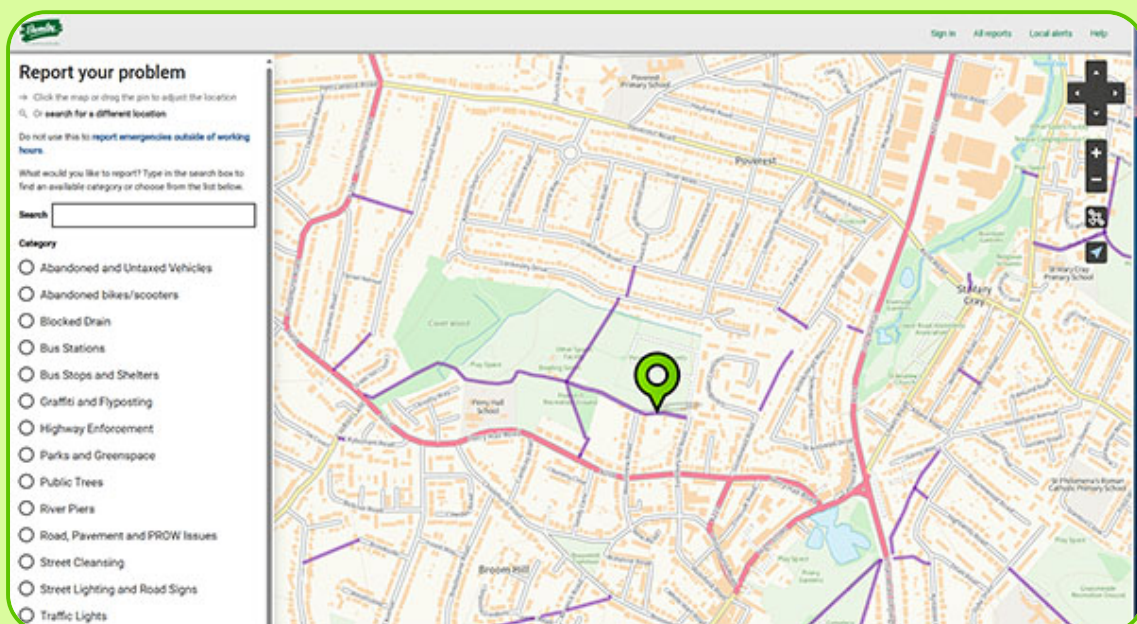
With effect from 31/12/2024 all plot holders are requested to participate in at least 2 Work Parties per year (out of 8 between March and October). If attendance isn't recorded, then £10 per work party missed will be deducted from their deposits (up to £20) to go towards the maintenance costs for our site. This amount is repayable alongside the standard annual rents the following year. The finer details on the scheme will be sent out in forthcoming newsletters, like jobs that can be done during the week etc.

Your committee can borrow up to £2,000 from the plot holder's deposit account to fund future projects if need be.

Lastly, annual rents will now be subject to an inflation adjustment (CPI).

Various infrastructural improvements are anticipated, and trials for Saturday openings of the tool hire rota will be implemented next year.

The next AGM is scheduled for Saturday, 13th September 2025.



Fix my Street!

The height of the trees that align the perimeter along plots 1-23 was brought up at the AGM and the shadows they cast across these plots. LB Bromley are responsible for these trees and every year we have been sending emails to their tree department (along with most other allotment sites in Bromley with similar issues) which get ignored. To be brutally honest they just don't have the resource or funding to deal with anything except emergencies.

However, we sent in a report on Fix-My-Street (reference 6478630) which is their preferred way of contacting them about such things and this is the reply: Thank you for your enquiry. No action is to be taken regarding the reported trees, please note that as outlined in our Tree Management Strategy (tree-management-strategy-2023-to-2027 (bromley.gov.uk) the Council will not prune trees in relation to the following:

- Tree size, where a tree is judged to be overly large.
- Obstruction of view: there are no rights associated with maintaining trees in accordance with maintaining views in British law
- Lack of light: there is no 'Right to light' (or shade) in British law.

There are plenty of crops that can be grown in areas of shade, please find enclosed link: <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/10-best-vegetable-crops-for-shade/>

State changed to: No further action



Work Party - We need your help!

Calling all plot holders! Get ready to battle the boundary behemoths in one of our biggest work parties of the year. **When:** This weekend, Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September **Time:** 10am - 12pm

Our hedges are feeling a little... overgrown. They're craving a trim, and we need YOUR help to give them a makeover!

What to Bring: Your gardening gloves, sensible shoes, a can-do attitude, and if you've got them: Rakes and brooms (for taming those trimmings), Cordless trimmers/hedge cutters (to unleash your inner Edward Scissorhands)

We'll have refreshments, and plenty of laughs. Even if you can only spare an hour, or just one of the days, your contribution will be HUGE!

Together, we can conquer those hedges and make our allotment the envy of all!



Organic September

You may be aware this month has been Organic September. The organic movement is built on the principles of health, ecology, fairness and care. This includes how we grow things on our allotments.

The Soil Association has produced a guide for those interested

<https://www.soilassociation.org/.../organic-living-guide/>

As always, please keep your speed down when driving on our site, don't park blocking a road, and make sure the padlock numbers are facing up when you leave our site 🙏

Thank you for your continued support.

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

WORK PARTY SCHEDULE 2024

September 28th and 29th Saturday and Sunday, 10am-12noon

Perimeter fence pruning

November 2nd, Saturday 10am-12noon

Water drain clearance

EVENTS DIARY 2024

October 26th Saturday, 12noon-3pm

International food and end of season natter

December 14th Saturday, 3pm-5pm

Christmas drinks, mince pies and cake

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