

## **Borough of Richmond Allotment Group (BRAG) – Ordinary Meeting**

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 7pm

**Venue:** The Triple Crown, Richmond, TW9 2SS

### **Present:**

Christina Aston – Bushy Park  
Bill Collis – Manor Road  
Sue Childs – Old Palace Lane  
Graham Day – Briar Road  
Howard Fletcher – Manor Road (Minutes)  
Rosemary Fulljames – Cavendish House  
Dennis Leigh – Briar Road  
Khrystyna McPeake – Bushy Park  
Ian Micklewright – Mill Road  
David Mertens – St Anne's Passage, Westfields  
Chris Morley Smith – Kew Short Lots (Chair)  
Brian Nicholls – Hatherop  
John Padgett – Hertford Avenue, Palewell Park, Palewell Pavillion, Priory, Triangle  
Richard Ward – Townmead  
Mike Wren – Hatherop

### **Apologies:**

Robin Hewitt – Bushy Park  
Derek Lawrence-Brown – Hertford Ave  
Susan Moore – Hertford Avenue, Palewell Park, Palewell Pavillion, Priory, Triangle

### **1. Changes to Representatives**

None

### **2. Previous Minutes (24<sup>th</sup> July 2017)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### **3. Matters Arising from July Meeting**

#### **3.1. Strategy**

Steve Marshall – the Council's contractor responsible for drawing up the new Allotments Strategy - has emailed apologising that the document is still not available. Apparently, it is under review by the Council prior to issue for consultation. (*Post Meeting Note: Council advise draft should be available in 2-3 weeks from now.*)

#### **3.2. Inspection/Eviction Procedure**

It is understood that Pete Lewis wishes to revise the procedure, although no official approach has been made to BRAG. Chris Morley-Smith asked that each site should write a brief note – sent to the Secretary and copied to him – outlining the procedure they currently follow. These would be combined into a one-page summary prior to

arranging a meeting with Pete Lewis. Chris Morley-Smith will contact Pete Lewis to invite him to attend the next (January) BRAG meeting.

### **3.3. Bonfires**

It is noted that the Council has again amended the bonfire rules, now allowing bonfires on the first Saturday morning in each month throughout the year (previously summer only). It is clear, however, that the summer rules are not practical as bonfires are concentrated into a short period with disturbance from smoke at levels unacceptable to both site neighbours and other plotholders. Chris Morley-Smith will write to Yvonne Kelleher proposing again that a 3-month summer total ban (June, July and August) with Monday to Saturday permission for the remainder of the year would be preferable for all parties.

## **4. AGM**

This year's AGM will be held on Monday, 27 November at 7pm at York House. Chris Morley-Smith will ascertain and advise which room.

Council officers will be invited. BRAG Representatives should inform their plotholders that they may attend as observers or to raise AOB issues, but will not be permitted to vote.

Chris Morley-Smith and the Secretary will compile an agenda.

## **5. Comments from Site Reps**

### **5.1. East Sheen (Hertford Avenue, Palewell Park/ Pavilion, Priory, Triangle)**

- The 30<sup>th</sup> September Annual Show was well attended, with good exhibits
- The committee have revised and documented their inspection procedure
- Website address: <https://eastsheenallotments.com/>
- The current waiting list of 420 implies a 6-year wait

### **5.2. Briar Road**

- Continuing discussions on full devolution
- 300 on waiting list going back to 2013; 30% not available when contacted

### **5.3. Cavendish House**

- Loss of pears – cause: some human, some creature (parakeets, squirrels?)

### **5.4. Manor Road**

- Good progress made with poor plots
- AGM due 19<sup>th</sup> November, Councillors invited
- Bill Collis emailed Pete Lewis, LBRuT Finance and Capita pointing out issues with recent invoices – no site, plot number or rate quoted. Also, these were issued late (some still not received, but payment due by 1<sup>st</sup> October) and no notice given of rate increase as required in T&C's. Chris Morley-Smith will write to the Council re shortcomings in rent invoices as above.

#### **5.5. Hatherop**

- Some invoices received with incorrect amount

#### **5.6. Old Palace Lane**

- Open Day held as part of National Gardens Scheme; highest earner (>£1k)
- Investigating possibility of having paid-for 'Green Bags' collected by Council

#### **5.7. Bushy Park**

- Recent AGM well attended
- Ongoing appeal on one plot being reheard after monitor period
- Two untended plots now being developed as wildlife area

#### **5.8. Townmead**

- All site events should be notified to BRAG Secretary, who will distribute
- Council tip is free to plotholders for allotment waste

#### **5.9. Kew Short Lots**

- The Kew Horticultural Society show on 26<sup>th</sup> August was a successful day

#### **6. AOB**

None

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next BRAG meeting will be held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 at 7pm at The Triple Crown pub, 15 Kew Foot Road, Richmond TW9 2SS (room on 1<sup>st</sup> Floor).