

Action points of a Meeting with LBM Allotment Societies on 4 May 2011 held at the Paddock Allotment.

Allotment Society Members

Jean Hancock, Ruth Whitehead, Yvonne Sharp - Paddock
Phil Neale, Caroline Trumper – Martin Way
Bill Bailey, Fred Taylor – Cottenham Park
Jeremy Riggs, Kerrigan Smith, Claire Shackelton – Western Rd
Sue Burgin, Annmarie Hedges, Ian Burgin – Havelock Rd
Peter Rhind – Haslemere
Peter Obermuller, Howard Watson, Sara Cornwall, Clr. Dennis Pearce
– George Hill
Terry Bhachu – Eastfields Rd
John Hitchman, B Fisher – New Barns
Richard Lee – Tamworth Farm
Maire Denny, Neil Burdett – Thurleston
Theresia Benker – Durnsford
Maliya Price – Effra Rd
Jocelyn Gladwyn - Cannizaro

London Borough of Merton:

Doug Napier (DN)
Francis McParland (FM)
Danny Lovelock (DL)

After introductions, DN recapped on progress so far to get the new reps. Up to speed. The main reason for all of this change is that the Council is facing unprecedented cuts.

All agreed that having the ability to contact plot holders was vital. **DN said we would be able to do this now and said that he would write to tenants** telling them we would be passing details to reps. unless they said no. Completion by Friday 3 June to enable reps to discuss issues with tenants and report back to the next meeting.

George Hill reps tabled a “permission sheet” which Martin Way were happy to use for their site.

Reps. asked if the Paddock would do a presentation at the next meeting to walk people through the way they self manage. **FM will assist with this.**

FM agreed to update the costs spreadsheet with the last 3 years water costs.

FM tabled the Gold, Silver, Bronze options for sites if they were to stay with the Council - a discussion followed in which The suggestion that was made was that there be a fourth category into which full self management would fall (with commensurate rental income passing to the respective associations). This would be the base category and then associations would choose whether to elect to 'purchase' services from the Gold/Silver/Bronze menu on top of this (with associated rental increase and no rent to be passed to the associations).

FM/DN/DL said they would look at this.

Could you all chat to as many plot holders as possible regarding options available.

DN said that as we need to write to everybody by September we really need to have made decisions regarding the future by July.

A question was asked regarding what would happen if a self-managed society had a very expensive emergency in the first year which could potentially take all of the sites finances and possibly more.

The council would not see a Society go out of business in the first year if at all possible.

The next meeting will be in mid-late June.