

# Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Allotments

**Friday, 16 July 2010**

**Present:** Councillor Julia Berry (Chair) and Councillors Alison Hansford, Harold Heaton and June Molyneux

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Martin Walls (Head of Streetscene), Dianne Scambler (Democratic and Member Services Officer), Andy Brown (Parks and Open Spaces Officer (Development)) and Lindsey Ralston (Assistant Parks and Open Spaces Officer (Development))

## 10.A.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Marie Gray.

## 10.A.01 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.

## 10.A.01 SITE VISITS

The following observations were made by Members on the Allotments Scrutiny Task Group Site Visit held on 16 July 2010

Allotment Site	Assessment of site	Comments
Crosse Hall Allotment Site, Crosse Hall Lane, Chorley	<p><u>Chorley Council Site</u></p> <p>Old established part of the site consists of a mixture of different sized plots compared to the new extended part of the site that has smaller uniformed plot sizes.</p> <p>One allotment site is presently the size of around 10 plots but the holder only pays for one (this refers back to previous years when there was a lack of interest in allotments)</p> <p>The site sits to the rear of a housing estate and is not screened in any way.</p> <p>The pathways around the plots are overgrown with weeds and brambled hedges, these are the responsibility of the Council</p>	<p>Should the plots be standardised straightaway instead of waiting for them to become vacant?</p> <p>Consider screening the whole site for the benefit of the nearby residents.</p> <p>Should the Council erect uniformed fencing around each individual plot?</p> <p>Should any shed erected on the site comply with set</p>

	<p>but it is extremely difficult to get around the site to maintain these paths effectively.</p> <p>There are a variety of different sizes of sheds on the plots constructed by variety of different materials.</p> <p>£40 Per annum – allotment holders receive a free water butt when they first take on the plot.</p>	<p>criteria?</p> <p>Consider increasing the rent</p>
<p>Brown House Lane, Wheelton</p>	<p><u>Privately Owned Site</u></p> <p>Plots are of uniformed good sizes that are slightly wider than a standard allotment plot.</p> <p>There are no sheds on the plots other than a couple of corrugated buildings used to house pigs. As there is nothing of any real height on the plots they appear to be more aesthetically pleasing to the eye and in keeping with its Green belt location and surrounding fields.</p> <p>There appears to be a variety of different uses - some of the plots have livestock on them (pigs) one has play equipment erected on the site.</p> <p>£55.00 per annum</p>	<p>As the site is privately owned, the allotment holders require planning permission to erect poly tunnels and sheds.</p>
<p>Plank Lane Allotment Site, Plank Lane, Leigh</p>	<p><u>Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council Site</u></p> <p>Large plots that are uniformed in size. None of the plots are fenced off, but they are adequately defined by grassed paths that are maintained by the allotment holders themselves.</p> <p>The site is advertised as an Allotment and Leisure Park</p>	<p>Consider grass paths around the plots to make them more accessible and easier to maintain. The allotment holders themselves may be encouraged to do this for the Council.</p>

	<p>and the Council finds that the lack of barriers around the plots encourages community spirit. There is a really nice look to the site and it is well maintained.</p> <p>A communal storage facility is located to the front of the site and each allotment holder has an individual storage area for all their tools and equipment.</p> <p>The site is set in a remote location to the rear of a Council park Each plot has a green house erected on it and this type of dwelling lends itself to the overall look of the site.</p> <p>The site also has its own active Allotment Group and the allotment holders police each other.</p> <p>The Council runs an annual competition for the best kept allotment. This encourages higher standards on the site and provides the Council with good publicity.</p> <p>£37.00 per annum including access to running water and storage area.</p>	<p>Consider communal storage facilities. Greenhouses instead of sheds? Encourage more Allotment Groups to establish more ownership amongst the allotment holders for their site.</p> <p>Introduction of an annual competition for the best kept allotment (possible Chorley Smile Award)</p>
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Chair