

Allotment Report May 2020

Item 7.1

The Allotments continue to be busy as the COVID 19 lockdown continues and tenants are making the most of the good weather and extra time that they may have to attend and cultivate their plots.

The skips have been supplied and have been filled and replaced on 2 more occasions – enabling lots of unwanted rubbish to be cleared from plots and walkways.

Of the 158 plots available we now only have 1 plot available at Rublees and 1 at Canada Gardens.

On the 14th May we sent out the planned notice to quit letter which gave notice of a planned change to the allotment contract in May 2021.

The letter was sent by post to all allotment holders and then backed up with an email also to ensure no-one was missed.

We have had 3 email responses to the notice to quit letter (see attached supporting paper)

Two of the emails were about more environmentally friendly ways to suppress weeds and one of them was asking if the new agreement could be condensed onto one page and also questioning why a new agreement is needed so soon after the last one was released.

There was an issue with the tap and post at Rublees which was attended by our contractor and the post was replaced with a new one and all seems to be working fine now. We also had an ongoing water leak from the water meter at Canada Gardens which after lots of call and emails was finally fixed by Southern Water at the beginning of April. This has incurred no cost to Steyning Parish Council as it was caused by poor fitting of the water meter which was carried out by Southern Water.

Steve our caretaker continues to attend the allotments to trim and tidy the communal areas.

We also continue to advise on social distancing measures at the allotments and encourage all to be alert whilst attending the site.

Report by Tessa Eckert