

Allotment Report September 2022

We are happy to confirm that we currently have 1 allotment plot available at Canada Gardens and a waiting list of 3 at present who would like a plot at Rublees, and I hope to be able to allocate some of these by the end of the month.

Allotment rent requests have been sent out and payments are coming back in good time. Reminders have been sent to those who have not paid.

We have sent 2 cultivation letters in Aug/Sept and are now stepping up inspections to ensure plots don't get overgrown before the autumn.

The water enhancement at Rublees has been completed with new pipes and new dipping tanks now installed. A feedback form was sent out to all Rublees allotment holders in relation to the water enhancement and the feedback was very positive. (See below)

We have had reports of increased Rat activity on Rublees site and have hired a pest control company who is monitoring the issue and dealing with it.

Steve our caretaker continues to attend the allotments to trim and tidy the communal areas and to report any issues that may arise.

Compiled by Tessa Eckert

Rublees Allotment Water Service Enhancement Survey

Briefing Note — To see what our Rublees Allotmenters thought of the work our contractors completed over the Spring / Early Summer period this year to enhance the water service, we compiled some questions and emailed them out the week beginning the 15th August. Of the 61 emails sent we received 16 responses plus additional comments via other emails which in itself amounted to a very respectable 30% response rate. Set out below are the five simple Qs asked, plus **results in red**, plus summary and comments below that.

Question 1.

Has your accessibility to Water improved since the works were carried out?

Yes **12** No **3** Don't Know **1**

Question 2.

The installation has increased the water pressure across the site. Has this made watering your plot easier and more efficient?

Yes **15** No Don't Know **1**

Question 3.

Do the larger Autofill dipping tanks make filling watering cans easier and more efficient?

Yes **15** No Don't Know **1**

Question 4.

Was the installation process carried out with minimal disruption and in a timely fashion?

Yes **15** No Don't Know **1**

Question 5.

Do you consider these works adequate?

Yes **14** No **1** Don't Know **1**

Summary of results

There were 16 people that responded to the allotment survey, with 3 people saying NO mainly because they water early in morning so may not have been affected anyway.

75% said that the accessibility to water has improved.

94% answered that the water pressure has increased across the site

94% said the dipping tanks made filling watering cans easier

94% were happy with the installation process

87% did consider the works adequate. With 1 person saying NO as they wanted to see the size of the pipes increased and pressure increased further.

Rublees Allotment Water Service Enhancement Survey Comments

Yes, to all 5 questions, so much better than it was, thank you.

I would like to add that I'm delighted with the auto-fill tanks. In the past when people have been using a hose on my local tap and I've had to dip in the tank, I then ask the hose people to refill the tank when they've finished. They're not always best pleased, but I explain that birds desperate for a drink could fall into the tank and not get out again if the water level is low. Hopefully now the wildlife will benefit from these tanks too.

A huge improvement and much appreciated. Thank you very much.

-Tanks are rather large, but much better height for can dipping.

- Thank you for installing the 'Orchard' tap near the Rublees/MPF hedge. We've already used it to rescue our parched trees.

This is such an improvement. We waited a long time to get it, but it was worth the wait. Thankyou!

The main thing I find so much better is that hose attachments now don't leak when using a hose - that caused so many problems with the old standpipes as water dribbled onto the ground despite best efforts not to do that. And I LOVE the Autofill tanks as I mainly use watering cans to water my plot.

Very satisfied with the whole show. A great job well done.

The workers were really kind and helpful to me when they saw me arrive in my mobility scooter, I really appreciated that.

I am already lucky enough to be next to the only tap on the east side - so the only benefit I got was increased pressure. But overall, it looks like a good job. I noticed that the community orchard has been using our water supply: Is this paid for? and does it involve people having to step over the fence and walk through the undergrowth to get to it to turn the tap on?

Main problem was that SPC took more than 3 years of petty argument before works carried out!!

So the answers are as follows

- 1. No Change (still the same number of taps!)*
- 2. There is an increase in pressure, but it is not maintained when more than two taps are used at one time.*
- 3. Yes, excellent pieces of kit.*
- 4. Yes, a very helpful and friendly team did the work very quickly without too much disruption.*
- 5. It's a pity that the pipe sizes were not increased as the pressure still drops when other taps are used. Also, two taps at each standpipe would have been an improvement so that at least two hose pipes / plots could be watered at the same time to avoid waiting etc. Obviously, this would need the pressure to be higher also.*