

EDAS COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 12TH JULY

ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIRS REPORT

7 PLOTS TO LET OUT.

Open Day

A lot of time was devoted to organising the open day, which I think we'd all agree was a great success. We learnt a lot from the first one last year and that has helped us make this years so much better. The plant stall was well stocked by donations and Tana (plot 147) and Mo (plot 149B) did a great job and are already planning how to improve it next year. Dominique (plot 240B) did us proud on the cake stall once again. We had a huge number of cakes donated. I have emailed everyone who volunteered their time, plants and baking skills. We can only do so much with the organisation – it is the volunteers who helped make it such a big success.

Composting Toilet

One great addition to our open day and the site was the new composting toilet. There is a big thank you to Simon (plot 198) and Jon (plot 176A) for building it and wiring it up. There was a lot of discussion about the urinal and whether should it be installed. I think we should revisit this once people have had a chance to use the toilet and see if it is necessary. It would be good to install the pump to use the hand basin. But this also means plumbing in a water tank and presumably capturing rainwater from the roof.

Ongoing we will need to buy toilet paper and hand sanitizer. We also need sawdust. I collect the current batch from Joseph Mangar from Horsenden allotments. He has said he can provide as much as we need – all free.

Ealing Allotment Partnership (EAP)

I attended the EAP committee meeting and met with Chris Welsh the Parks Operation Manager who now manages the council's allotments since their allotment manager was made redundant. While most of the meeting is about management of the council sites, we did talk about group purchases of

composting toilets. Joseph Mangar suggested we are all probably looking to buy composting toilets and Chris suggested that it should be possible to group our purchases and get a bigger discount and buy through the council.

Radbourne Walk

I was emailed by Caroline (plot 211) telling me that she had seen the council spraying the Radbourne Walk. I emailed our three Walpole Ward councilors to see if they could find out what happened. I also spoke to Chris Welsh at the EAP meeting. A day later I was emailed this...

Dear Christiana,

Firstly, may I apologise regarding any affect that the spraying may have on the allotment. Particularly, given the clearance work that the allotment group has done in the past and continues to provide along Radbourne Walk.

Can you or members' of your group pass on any evidence/ photographs of the affected area to Street Services Contracts Manager, Robin Williamson. Robin will speak with our contractor to clarify how this could have happened and to find out how we can rectify the situation. Robin's email address is - WilliamsonR@ealing.gov.uk.

Regards

Kofi Nyamah | Community Management Coordinator (Ealing Central & Acton)

I have emailed Robin Williamson several questions...

- . Which weedkiller was used?
- . What area was sprayed. Was it just the Radbourne Walk or did they spray other parts of our perimeter fence along Mattock Lane, Northfield Ave and Occupation Road?
- . What is the range of the sprayer. Is it meant to only affect plants immediately adjacent to the path?
-or does it have a longer throw - further/higher into the hedge and wildlife border?
- . Is the Radbourne Walk on a list of areas to spray?
- . Was this just over zealous use of weedkiller and not knowing when to stop?

...and he has passed my questions on to yet another person. I am still waiting a response.

Simon and I walked the Radbourne checking for plant damage and I have taken photos. We'll do further follow up pics in the coming weeks.

Walpole Ward Forum Meeting

Hilary and I attended the ward forum meeting. It was confirmed that there will be money for a composting toilet but it must be agreed by a council committee and this won't happen until October.

It was also mentioned that there is money for local projects from the Walpole budget. David Highton asked for a contribution to costs for the Soundbite Festival. So, I thought I would ask if it might be possible to get some money towards expenses for the open day. There was a positive response to this proposal. I don't know how much it will be or if we should make a suggestion as to how much we could ask for. Hilary is going to contact David Highton to see how it works and if there are restrictions on what the money can be used for.

Site Survey

Christine and I did a site survey of the Occupation Road end of the site – While Hilary, Paul and I did a survey of the Mattock Lane end. Reminder letters were send out, then some non-cultivation letters – plus three termination letters.

...And Finally

Christine and I attended a presentation called “Pee and Poo For Food”. Enough said!

TREASURER’S REPORT

After expenses have been paid out for the Open Day and skips there will be approximately £5000 in the account.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Christine is continuing to organize skips and managing contacts including new ones from the open day.

MAINTENANCE

We had a volunteer day. A large shed has been moved.

Simon is preparing some produce for the Ealing Flower show from the Heritage plot.

Christina is re-organising the Volunteers for the Potager.

WEB-SITE

Jon has put pictures from the Open day on the site

Text and pictures from the Potager Plot

SECTION B

OPEN DAY DE-BRIEF

- Weather was “interesting” at the beginning but then brightened up
- 431 people attended
- Plant stall to be planned and plot holders asked for specific things
- Honey display was excellent but there was no honey for sale

- Bit later next year. Second week in July?

HOPS

- Where and with what brewery?

AGM DOCUMENTS

- Finding the date of the AGM will give us the timetable for the run up

FUND RAISING

- We need a shopping list. It takes as much time to apply for a small amount as a large amount

COMMUNAL PLOT

- Christina and Hilary are going to up-date the existing document and present it to Pathways.

FOXES

- We discussed an area where a foxes Den is causing problems with nappies on the plot and people being bitten with fleas
- Foxes don't like being disturbed so creating secluded areas is not so good.
- There is a preparation that foxes don't like the smell of.

FIRST AID

- We need to add emergency numbers to a First Aid Kit
- Should we have contact numbers for people?
- Ask Emergency services what is best route to contact. Do we give them post code? If so should these be displayed on the gates?

Action point- Kim to research cost of First Aid course.

QUARTERLY MEETING WITH PATHWAYS

- Paul asked for Historic documents. Alison said she would look next time she was in the Archive to see if any files were Allotment related.

TREES

- Lime tree in Central path, next to David Read's plot, looks as if it is dying.

Action point – Tell Pathways.

- Discussed large Chestnut and Brambles on Georgina's plot .

Action- Letter to go out saying plot needs to have more cultivation.

Action- Christina to look for 25% data previously researched.

SKIPS

- Decision taken to have one skip at start of each season then only for special work sessions during rest of year.

BIG SHEDS

- Milko's shed plot 148 is leaning and dangerous.

Action – survey (Christina &Christine) then letter to say it may need to be removed by us.

- Plot 165b has oversize greenhouse.

Action – ask for this to be reduced in size.

- Plot 167b- has oversize shed.

Action – new ploholders to reduce size.

AOB

Kim has a strimmer which she is happy to donate to Declan for general strimming in return for help with strimming her plot as necessary.

NEXT MEETING - August ? tbc