



## Allotment Report March 2021

The allotments are doing well; in fact I think it is fair to say that they have kept people sane over lockdown.

They are fully occupied and we have 18 people (as at 5/3/2021) on the waiting list. I do feel that some of these will melt away as society gets back to normal. I am issuing the annual letter requesting payment this week, to include a paragraph advising people to give up if they cannot manage their plot – especially those with multiple plots.

One of the main issues last year was 'bee poo', mainly in Field Way. Our main bee-keeper has reduced his hives, but I do not think the problem all lay with him – his plot is well distanced from Field Way. Many of the local houses now have hives. I do not think it is appropriate for the Parish Council to 'police' this, especially as we are supposed to be encouraging bees to help protect the environment; however I am happy to discuss this further if and when it happens.

We have not put the fees up this year, and I feel we should not do so next year either. If we wanted to do so, we would need to advise the holders by 1/4/2021 – they need a year's notice. The fees are currently £30 for a full charge and £12 for a concessionary. They remain excellent value compared to other local sites. Our total income for 2020/2021 was £1608.50.

We provide a skip in October each year, and in Spring if needed; so far people have been co-operative and only used it for allotments rubbish. We have a very good team of volunteers who organise clearances. We also provide 4 x green waste bins which are emptied by GBC every fortnight, again a volunteer goes up and opens up for the GBC lorry so that they can turn round.

We also pay water rates to Castle Water and 'loo' emptying fees; the charges for 2020/2021 were:

£67.00 'loo' emptying

£164.00 green waste bins

£806.10 water rates

£302.40 – skip – net cost £252.00.

£1289.10 costs (net figure – VAT will be reclaimed).

We did not hold an AGM in 2020, and I would be surprised if we manage to hold one in in 2021; it all depends on Covid restrictions and when they are lifted/eased. In any event, the holders are not particularly interested in having a committee and prefer to go their own way. The previous committee remain more than helpful with advice and support, so I suggest we carry on in this somewhat informal manner. I would be delighted to meet any of the Councillors and give them a guided tour of our lovely allotments.