



09 February 2023

Move from Bellfields Allotments

Statement by the Lead Councillor for Environment, Cllr James Steel

Ahead of the move from Bellfields allotments to new plots in the borough, we have met with allotment holders from Guildford Allotment Co-operative Society (GAS). In the past communication has been of concern, so we wanted to meet face to face with everyone affected.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- share information about the new allotment plots that we are providing
- listen to questions and concerns of allotment holders ahead of the move
- develop a closer relationship with allotment holders

I'm really pleased that more than 40 people took the time to attend the session. In a letter we have responded to the questions that were raised. We have also set out the compensation package for those who will be moving. This letter has been sent to the GAS to forward to its tenants.

GAS has had one-to-one meetings with their tenants. They are now deciding who needs to move. Once we have those details, we will contact everyone affected. We want to make their move as easy as possible.

We have provided new allotments at North Moors and Woodside Road. The Woodside Road site is ready, and the North Moors site will be ready in the next two weeks. We have listened to the concerns of GAS about these new sites. As a result, we are completing a lot of extra works as they requested. We have also done some clearance work at Bellfields. This has created new plots so less people will have to move.

Over the coming weeks, a team from Parks and Leisure will be working with allotment holders to help them move items to their new plots.

We served notice to GAS in April 2022. The allotments at Lagoon and Old Farm, which form part of the Bellfields site, need to be vacated by 6 April 2023. This is to allow preparation works for the first phase of housing.

The development is part of the Weyside Urban Village scheme. In total it will provide 1,500 new homes, whilst protecting the greenbelt.