

Amenities and Leisure Committee Meeting – 31st May 2023

Agenda Item 6 – CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

The principal task of the Culver Lane Allotments Working Party is to inspect plots throughout the year and decided upon the recipients, annually, of the ‘Best Allotment’ award (a plot that is considered to be the overall outstanding allotment) and the ‘Most Improved Allotment’ award (the allotment which has seen the most improvement during the year).

The group is made up of four town councillors plus a representative from the Horticultural Society. Members of the Allotment Working Party carry out three judging visits between March and August, where they look at each allotment and score it using a judge’s scorecard, which considers various categories:

Variety of Fruit & Veg – to look for a broad range of different types of fruit and vegetable grown on the plot.

Quality of Growth – to look at the general quality of what is being grown on the plot. Plants/crops should be flourishing and free from disease, pests and damage.

Neatness/Organisation of Plot – to look at how well the plot is set out in the areas which are cultivated. Unplanted areas where plants/crops have been planted or are about to be planted should be free from weeds and the soil should be in a well cultivated condition. Any structures on the plot, should be neat, clean and well maintained. Good use of plant supports, where appropriate.

Environment – to look for evidence of good use of compost bins, rainwater collection where possible and any other environmentally friendly practices.

The judging visits are usually carried out as follows: -

Visit 1 - March – April

Visit 2 - May – June

Visit 3 - July – August

With a final visit made in early September when the decisions are made.

Unfortunately, due to the wet weather, Visit 1 has not been carried out this year. The elections have caused further disruption so, as we are now at the end of May, we would advise that two inspection visits be made in June, one early June and one late June.

After the decision visit in September, members should forward the final scorecard to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk who will inform the successful plot holders and organise the trophies. The awards are then made at the Mayor’s Reception event in December.

Emma Carroll
Deputy Town Clerk
22.05.2023