

Meeting of HRAA & SITC

9<sup>th</sup> September 2009

In attendance:

Representing SITC:

Sarah Mead - Chairman of Amenities Committee

Alison Melnyzcuk – Town Clerk

Representing HRAA:

Allan Lewis – Chairman of Hill Rise Allotment Association (HRAA)

Ray Frodsham

Dougie Gale

Maggie Lewis

Hayley Weightman

### Agenda

1. Disabled Access – discuss recent member communication 14 Aug, and solution.

- It was brought to the Council's attention that [a tenant] had e-mailed SITC regarding access to her plot. [The tenant] uses a wheelchair and it is necessary for her husband to drive her up to their plot in order to assist her into her wheelchair and then on to the plot. Since the ploughing of the land at the bottom of the site it has not been possible for him to drive her there. AM reported that no e-mail has been received by SITC but that she will look into the matter immediately.

*Action: **AM** to contact [the tenants] to discuss the matter.*

- Discussion took place discussing the allocation of plots to allotment users who used wheelchairs or who needed assistance reaching their plots. It had been envisaged by SITC that any such user would be allocated a plot on the new area, close to the entrance to the site. Unfortunately, SITC have not been made aware that there were any tenants on the site who required this option (including above). It appears that there may be several such cases.

*Action: **Amenities Committee** to discuss how to deal with this issue and give consideration to adding further information to the FAQs and requesting that any new tenant with special needs makes them know to SITC before they are allocated a plot.*

- The gating of the tracks during the winter months was discussed. Since the FAQs were sent out last year no-one had complained about the prevention of vehicular access to the site during this period. However, there were obviously tenants who were abusing this and the lack of access will become more of an issue when the gates are installed. It was requested that any existing tenants who are Blue Badge holders be given a key to allow them access to their plot.

*Action: **Amenities Committee** to discuss the possibility of giving a key for the track gates to existing tenants on production of their Blue Badge.*

*N.B. The query was raised as to whether or not SITC should make a key available to the emergency services also.*

2. Mulch availability – Notification on use to HRAA.

- The mulch that is heaped on the site at the moment is the shredded wood from Warner's Park. AM asked AL to inform members it was there for them to use.

3. Access gate combination lock - Intermittency of operation.

- All agreed that the combination padlock is a problem. Several tenants have tried to fix it and at the moment it seems to be working. AM asked AL to see if any of the members had any ideas for a better option. The option of having a key was discussed but the cost of providing one for all tenants is prohibitive.

*Action: Roger Warboys to take another look at the lock.*

4. Access roadway between gate and car park hardstanding.

- There is a problem with large puddles forming in this area, it was requested that a supply of Type 1 hardcore be made available so that members can fill in the pot-holes when they appear. AM reported that there was a supply of Type 1 on site that was brought over from the cemetery extension, this is available for members use in the pot-holes.

5. Cemetery waste deposits at NW corner of allotments – update.

- Roger will be strimming behind the present heap to make a contained area for the new compost heap.
- The heap will contain organic matter from SITCs areas (e.g. spent hanging-baskets, soft prunings from Warner's Park, cemetery flowers etc.). All non-organic matter will be removed before the waste is put into the heap.
- AL raised concerns about run-off from the heap and requested that a small channel was dug for the run-off so that it would not affect neighbouring plots.

6. Footpath/footbridge - will there be a locked gate provided in the proposed fence linking this access route to the site?

- There will be three pedestrian access points at the bottom of the allotment site once the new fence and hedging are put in. One next to the vehicular access point at the entrance to the site, one opposite the reinstated bridge through Long Plantation and one where the allotment site abuts the cemetery extension. Although the accesses will be gated they will *not* be locked. All access points will be wide enough to get through with a standard wheelbarrow.
- The new plots which are to be created on the HDC land next to the present site were discussed. These plots are also only for use by St Ives residents and their opening will hopefully make a dent in the current waiting list for plots which currently runs to around 90.

7. Removal of bricks/rubble from corner of plot 129 – causing cars to widen track unnecessarily.

- There are several large pieces of rubble in this area which may once have been part of the concrete block supporting a signpost. There is also a problem with the rubble that was used to fill in pot-holes near the notice board.

*Action: Roger Warboys to remove large pieces and level the area near notice board.*

8. Weed control on newly created hardstanding boundary bank.

- Roger will be spraying-off this bank (in suitable weather conditions so that there is no spray drift) and then planting ground-cover plants.

9. Progress update on planned changes discussed at last meeting.

- SM to prepare new drawing of site so that changes can be marked off.

*Action: AL to send SM scan of original drawing of site.*

10. Discuss TC offer of Council chamber for HRAA committee meetings

- AM offered HRAA use of the Council Chamber for meetings as long as it was available at the time required. Cllr R Paget-Crowe, SITCs representative on the Eastfield Infants School board of Governors, was being contacted by Richard Weightman to see if Eastfield might be able to make their hall available for the HRAA AGM in October.

#### 11. AOB

- AL has joined the NSALG (personal membership) and once the HRAA has had its AGM he will look further into the possibility of the association taking up a membership to cover all its members.
- SM thanked Richard Weightman for the hard work and research he has done in preparation for HRAA's AGM.