

Self-Management Decision at Last!

At our EGM on 25th November the association members present voted overwhelmingly to back the proposal for the trustees to sign the leases and management agreement! The aim is that these will be signed in February, so that we take over the two sites on 1st April. NHDC will terminate all their tenancy agreements on 31st March, and we will issue new agreements which come into force on 1st April. It will be necessary for all tenants to join BALGA, for insurance reasons, so any current plot holder who does not wish to do so will be offered a plot at another site in North Herts

AGM rescheduled

The AGM date has been brought forward one week, to Monday 11th January 2016, and it will be held at St Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm. The new Tenancy Agreement will be ready for approval by the meeting, as will policies for Data Protection, Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety and Anti-bribery. All of these are necessary to meet the requirements of NHDC. If anyone would like to see copies of any or all of these before the meeting please contact Phil Charsley by email, or by phone on 07 817 801 616 or 01 462 895 665.

Compost Sunday January 31st

We will again be opening the Allotment shop on the last Sunday in January for members to stock up with composts at good prices. We order specially in December, when good discounts are available for bulk orders. These discounts are then passed on to you, but we cannot maintain these prices through the year, and the discounted stock soon runs out! Just estimate how much compost you will need through the year, and buy it when it is cheap!

Allotment Shop

As we said in the last newsletter, sales of seed potatoes have been disappointing for the last 2 years, leaving us with surplus stock and no profit. We have again reduced our order so popular varieties will run out. Try to come early for next spring's potato sets (10AM – 12 Noon, 13th and 14th February.) or you may be disappointed.

Wood Chip

Our near neighbour at North Road, Roger Smith, is a contractor for NHDC among others for tree pruning and similar work. He produces a lot of chipped wood, and delivers some of it to us for free. There is a good pile of it at the moment in the North Road Car Park, and it is free to all our members and associate members. Just help yourselves!

Seed Catalogues

Seeds ordered recently will be available soon, but you can put one in by 31st January if you missed the October deadline. Ask Mick Camp for a catalogue. You will have missed the special discount, but the prices are still low compared to garden centres!

Publicity

One of the things that NHDC almost never did was to publicise allotments. We plan to do this, but if anyone has good ideas about how and where we should advertise, please let the committee know. It will be our aim to let all the vacant plots as soon as possible, to increase our income, and allow us to spend money on projects like improvement of the water supply at Clothall Road! When all the plots are full we can start planning to bring the vacant land at North Road back into use, where we think we could have another 40 half plots.

Manure

Manure and Ace of Herts continue to be in demand so please be honest and pay for what you take, 50p per barrow load (members only). If you see anyone else taking it challenge them! No pay, no more delivery. Any extra money we get goes to site maintenance so we all benefit. Pay Mick or Martin, or at the AGM or shop.

Allotment Letting

Do you know of anyone who might like an allotment, or a bigger plot? We are not required to follow NHDC practise of only letting half plots, nor only letting to NHDC residents, so anyone who was refused before should start talking to us now, ready for a plot in April! We could also offer ¼ plots if a ½ plot is too much!

Vacant Plots

There are vacant plots on both sites, and we will prepare them for cultivation before letting them. We will have a dedicated phone for prospective tenants to contact (07523185106), and the committee will set up a rota for responding to messages in the New Year!

Dig Together Day

The market stall on Saturday 13th September was again very popular, and raised £215 for the local school garden clubs. Apples from the Community Orchard sold out, as did most of the donated produce. Thanks to all those who helped and donated!