

Agenda item 3

Annual Report 2018/19

This report covers the full year from the AGM on 15th November 2018.

Relationship with Haringey

With the appointment of the new allotment officer early in the year there has been improved contact with Haringey. Emi has undertaken 2 inspections of the site during that time. Two in the spring and one so far this autumn. Haringey issued 20 NCN's and of these 2 were followed up with eviction notices and 3 people gave up their plots voluntarily.

Haringey staff have also been supportive in the quest for funding for the social shed on plot 15.

Committee members have attended the allotment forum on a regular basis, and this has been important in allowing us to raise issues of concern, hear what other allotment sites are doing and negotiate with the council on issues of responsibility.

We have continued the practice of alerting plot holders when the Committee think it is likely that they might receive an NCN on the next inspection. Most people are positive about receiving these alerts and it gives them an opportunity to take action or to let us know where they have personal circumstances which need to be taken into account by the Council on inspection.

Trading Shed

At the end of this year we have said goodbye to our two long standing managers of the trading shed. Lynn Malloy and Julia Grant have done a sterling job for many years but there is only so long that anyone can give up their time to ordering manure or organizing volunteers. We thank them for all their hard work and the splendid state in which they have left the trading shed for others to take over.

We are pleased to have recruited Liz Denver as the Trading Manager – responsible for stock etc and Annie Griffiths as the Trading Shed Manager – responsible for volunteers and shed operation. I hope everyone will give them support as they take on their new roles.

The Committee would also like to thank all the volunteers who run the shed on a Sunday morning. It is sometimes a cold damp task, but they still manage to smile.

This is the second year of the trading shed being run by SHAA rather than CHADAHS and you will see from the figures below that we continue to do well contributing to the costs of running the site.

Expenditure on Stock April 2018 to March 2019	Income from Sales April 2018 -March 2109
£5105.01	£6744.13

Maintenance

We continue to try and maintain the site as well as possible. This year was particularly challenging as we had several acts of vandalism caused by people climbing in over the boundary fences. The boundary is very long, and it is sometime difficult to maintain. We have replaced many lengths of fence this year, most significantly the fence and entrance at the Queens Wood were replaced and this seems to have deterred the most significant intruders.

We have identified a maintenance issue for the trading shed and many of you will have noticed the crack in the floor. We have had a structural engineer take a look at the problem and he recommends that there is no urgency, but we should monitor the issue.

At the end of September 2019, we were holding £6663 which is allocated to maintenance only. The main expenditure over 2019 has been on fencing and securing the perimeter continues to be a priority.

Lettings and Waiting list

We have let 14 plots in 2018/19. All probationers passed their initial period and became full tenants. At the time of writing there are 3 plots available for letting.

The waiting list is still closed and despite some movement there are still 125 people on the waiting list. The longest wait is currently 4 years.

Events

We opened the year as usual with the ever-successful potato day. This coming year we will not pre order potatoes but get in a supply that members can buy from.

The Plant sale was very successful this year with bumper takings of £ 1740. Half of the takings were donated to the Harington Scheme as agreed in advance by the Committee.

It was SHAA's turn to organise the joint outing with Ally Pally Allotments and a splendid job was done by Juliet Mann, Lynn Malloy and Julia Grant. The outing to Great Dixter was a success with a glorious day, mercifully a bit cooler than the previous few days had been. The trip sold out in record time and there was a much larger contingent from Shepherds Hill than usual. Although we agreed that we would bear any financial loses for the trip there were none.

We continue to hold regular working parties and are very grateful for all the help people give. Without them it would be very difficult to keep things ticking along as they do.

Plot 15/ Social Shed

The AGM last year approved the go ahead for a project to develop a social shed on the old Plot 15. The AGM also agreed to set aside £5000 of our own funds for the development. During the year we recieved planning permission and made an application for lottery funding. We are very pleased to tell you that we received just under £10,000 funding from The Lottery in the late summer.

There have been numerous working parties during the year to clear the plot and many people have put forward their ideas for what will be a lovely social space with communal garden on the sloped area as well as the shed itself.

The funding is very tight as some costs have increased since we submitted the funding application. We are currently looking at how much self-building can be done to keep the costs down. The next phase will be to put down a base on which the shed itself will stand.