

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ALLOTMENTS 4TH OCTOBER 2005

MEMBERS: Cllr Matt Davies* (Chair), and Cllr Liz Santry*,

(*Members present).

*Recomm'd
to / Action
Required
By: **

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

2. **URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS, IF ANY, IN RESPECT OF
ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None received.

4. **POLICY PROVISION IN THE UDP FOR ALLOTMENTS**

Members considered a report of the Director of Environmental services which set out the policy provision for allotments in the UDP. There was some discussion regarding the role of allotments as informal open space. Additionally consideration was given to the permitted size of structures on sites and whether planning permission was required and where the use of sites was changing to become more community orientated. It was noted that a degree of flexibility was important but additionally regard had to be had to local residents.

There was a discussion on the possibility of S106 monies being secured for allotment development as part of new housing schemes.

It was noted that there was a good degree of protection afforded to allotments through legislation.

RESOLVED:

1. That Officers clarify the legal position regarding permitted development on sites.
2. That information be obtained from similar Borough's as to their policies on the flexible use of allotments and whether policies were in place to reflect the different cultural needs.
3. That officers ascertain whether any consideration had been given to obtaining S106 funding from housing developments.

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Riorden
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5. **CURRENT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACING ALLOTMENTS
IN HARINGEY**

The Panel received a report setting out background information relating to current issues facing allotments. The report gave consideration to:-

- Current provision and future demand
- Management of current provision
- Management of under used plots
- Health and safety and security
- Role of allotments in terms of sustainable development, healthy living and education objectives

The Panel noted that there was a high demand for allotments in the west of the Borough and there were underdeveloped plots in the East. Also there were some wards where the existing supply of allotments was particularly deficit.(ie more than 800 metres catchment) It was suggested that there should be more marketing and publicity given and that details of vacant sites should be placed on the Council's Website. In response to a question on how accurate were the Council's records on allotment holders, it was noted that these were based on payments (usually by cheque).However some concern had been raised at the UDP Enquiry that the process to remove an allotment holder due to non payment or neglect was rather lengthy. Also the figures showing vacancies might be distorted because plots were initially let on a 4 -6 week trial basis and yet were shown as vacant.

There was some discussion on devolving more management arrangements to site secretaries or local Committee's but this was limited by finance. Within the Open Spaces Strategy Friends of Parks were working with the Council to develop training.

The meeting gave consideration to questions as set out in the Appendix.

RESOLVED:

1. That details of the policies of Thames Water and Lea valley in relation to the management of their allotments be sought.
2. That the Panel recommend that the existing policy on allocations be reviewed.
3. That the limited provision be targeted to those most in need of the service.
4. That the policy around charging between Borough and Non Borough residents be examined.
- 5.

COUNCILLOR MATT DAVIES

Chair – Scrutiny Review of Allotments

** The "Action Required By:" column is for officer use only and does not form a part of the formal record.*