

North Staffs Allotments Meeting
Wednesday 5th June 2024

Attendance: Steve Barker, The Limes; Colin Brindley, Newford Farm; Mick McCue, Newford Farm; Phil Moss, Newford Farm; John Birch, Udallsfield; Kate Mannion; Newcastle; Sarah Hill, Gresty Street; Bruce Jarvest, Thistlehough; Jayne Stokes, Colville Street/Fenpark.

Introduction: Bruce opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes from last meeting: Jayne asked if everyone present had received the minutes and read them. A few copies were handed out before the meeting started for those who had not seen them. It was agreed that they were a true record of the the meeting and passed.

Minutes from this meeting: Bruce asked Sarah to give updates on a few issues that are ongoing. Redundant sites is something the council are looking into so Bruce and Sarah are going to go round the sites to determine what sites are feasible to be reinstated as allotments and what are not. The sites that are not possible to reinstate could be sold off and the money ring fenced for the allotment service.

A discussion then took place about vacancies on sites and has the waiting list been reduced. Sarah said that the allotments service had greatly reduced the numbers. Colin, from Newford Farm does fourteen people on the waiting list but only have one plot vacant. Colin did say that none of these people came via the allotments service and they have not contacted them with anyone. Sarah will pass this information to the allotments service. Jayne said she had no vacancies and had received emails from the allotments service to say no one on the waiting list.

Sarah reported that there have been break-ins at various sites through-out the city.

Asked if any progress on the pavilion at Campbell Road. Sarah responded that there has not been due to the rough sleepers have broken in again. Will keep us posted.

Bruce has reported that the survey is still ongoing and hope to have a report for the next meeting.

Newford Farm reported that they felt the allotment officers were a little aggressive when they had been in contact with them. Sarah said she would raise this issue at the next meeting with the allotment officers.

Jayne receives emails for community funding for all of Staffordshire. When she receives them she will forward to the Network's website so all can see them, and hopefully apply.

Kate's issue with Newcastle council regarding obtaining a plot is still ongoing.

Sarah then mentioned that 2025 will be the centenary year that Stoke on Trent became a city. There are plans to celebrate this and James Doble is the designated point of contact for the council. Sarah asked for suggestions and few ideas were

thrown into the hat. One being "Garden in the City" another is that like garden open days we have allotment open days and encourage sites big and small to participate. This will be ongoing.

Finally, a question was asked about any progress on the leases? Sarah said none at present.

Regarding venues for the group a couple of options put forward the Victory Club at Smallthorne and the Bridge Centre. Jayne will contact them to see if they are available.

Next meeting is Wednesday 3rd July, 2024.

Meeting closed.