

St John's Allotment Association 1983

Site Report 2021 AGM

We need to spend a lot of money to keep our site safe and plots workable. Regular trimming of the hedge, cleaning of the ditch, and hire of skips for rubbish removal is part of a regular maintenance programme. Recent years have seen us the target of professional thieves, and the development of the school site for housing has resulted in some searching questions about what we will do in the future.

Spending on skips is considerable - £1,050 in 2020. This is all a result of tenants bringing stuff on to the site and not taking it away when it was in manageable quantities. Please take your rubbish home with you for the sake of all of us. Don't bring anything on to the site which you don't have an immediate use for. A lot of the stuff which we load on to skips are things which people think 'might be useful one day'. The 'one day' never comes and the committee end up loading it on to a skip. Despite all the spending on skips, there is still a great deal of rubbish around and we plan to have two skips on the May Day weekend. Only put large items on the skip which you cannot easily get to the tip – nothing small or compostable. It is quite likely that more skips will be needed later in the year.

Our security is very poor, and like many other associations we have been targeted by professional thieves. The best way to deter them is to have nothing of value on site, but it is likely they will come for a look-see. They obviously come on to the site to do a recce, so please challenge any strangers if it is safe to do so. As the gate is left open to avoid covid contamination we get a quite a few strollers coming onto the site, and we plan a big 'No Entry' sign to deter them.

We are looking into the possibility of bringing electricity on to the site with an electric sliding gate and security lighting. The gate would be opened with an electronic fob, so operating it would be easy, but the sliding track would need to be kept clean. We are obviously talking 'big bucks' here and nothing will be spent until a general meeting of members approves.

We are considering having a property marking day, with Smartwater and/or indelible post code markers, which may be a deterrent to thieves.

The state of Gypsy Lane and the main drive is as bad as it has ever been, despite a great deal of work being carried out by the football club. We plan to speak to the club when they return after the lockdown about breaking up the surface of the lane and rolling it. Meantime we are ordering another load of road planings and will have a working party to fill in the many holes in the drive and some in the lane. Please feel free to move the planings into any of the many potholes.