

BRIAR ROAD ALLOTMENT HOLDER'S ASSOCIATION

Dear Plot Holders,

We hope you're all well and gearing up for the growing season - It's good to see so many people on site and Spring finally feels like it's on the way.

Some updates:

PLANT SALE / SPRING FAIR – Sunday 21st May: The event will include a plant, produce, cake and tool sale as well as refreshments. We'll be in touch again nearer the time, but will be grateful for any spare plants, produce or good condition tools you might have. We'd also like contributions for the cake sale and hope we'll see as many of you as possible on the day.

PARKING PASSES: We currently have a couple of parking passes missing – Pass 38 from the Andover Road box and Pass 33 from the Meadway Gate. The passes are expensive to replace and as the site is getting busier with the ramp up to Spring we'll need a full complement, so we'd be incredibly grateful if everyone could double check that they've not taken one home inadvertently. If they're not found, we'll have to get them cancelled and replaced.

In addition, there have been a few instances lately where either the box hasn't been closed properly or the code hasn't been scrambled so it could be that the passes have fallen out of the box. Again – we'd be really grateful if everyone could check the passes are secure before they leave.

PETTY THEFTS: Unfortunately, we've had a few reports of items going missing from plots. Please try to keep items as secure as possible and a good suggestion for larger items such as wheelbarrows which are difficult to secure in a shed, is to mark them with your plot number if possible. Please also make sure that the site gates are always locked. It goes without saying but please don't borrow items from someone else's plot, even if it looks untended.

PLOT 35 ACCESSIBLE PLOT PROJECT: Some of you will have noticed that we've managed to get the paths laid on plot 35 and the project is getting closer to completion. A big thank you to everyone that's helped to get it this far. There's a little more to finish off, but nearly there! If you would like to move to the raised beds or know of anyone that would, get in touch.

RENT INCREASES: The council allotment team have asked us to inform you of rent increases:

This information is on the council website

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/allotments/about_allotments#AllotmentRents

When do increases come into effect?

- Key deposit increases start from 1 April 2023
- Rent increases for **new** plot holders start for plots let on or after 1 April 2023
- Rent increases for existing plot holders come into effect at the next round of invoicing (mid-September) for the 2023/24 invoices.

Allotments (Not subject to VAT)

Annual rent (per 25sq metres/customarily a rod)	19.50	21.70	
Annual rent* - concessions (per 25sq metres/customarily a rod)(*Senior Citizens, Unemployed, Low Income, Disabled, Students)	9.75	10.80	
Out of Borough residents	39.20	43.60	
Key purchase - deposit refundable	12.00	15.00	

*Concessions for Senior Citizens - in order to be eligible for a reduced charge for an allotment in 2021/21 you will need to be at least 60 at 1st October 2022 - the date when the payment becomes due.

Thanks as always for your continued support and we hope to see you on site soon.

Kind Regards

BRAHA Committee

Website - <https://e-voice.org.uk/braha/>