

BRIAR ROAD ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Plot Holders,

We hope everyone is well and coping with the unseasonably cold weather we've been having.

MAY PLANT SALE – SUNDAY 16TH MAY – 11am – 3pm: Another quick reminder of our plant sale which will be held at the community hut. If you have any plants for the sale, we'd be grateful if you could either leave them safely on the veranda of the hut on Saturday 15th or before 11am on the Sunday morning. The event will be open to non plot holders too, so let your friends and neighbours know.

ACCESSIBLE PLOTS PROJECT: We're really pleased to be able to announce that the Committee have been successful in applying for a grant for a project on our site and can now share the details with you.

It has always been a concern to us that as plot holders get older or become less able, they usually end up giving up their plots. Not only do they miss the exercise but more importantly the social interactions with people they have known for years. Through this project we hope to address this problem.

We have identified a large plot near the Andover Road gate that has become vacant, and the Local Authority has given us permission to use it. We intend to clear this site and construct several raised beds and suitable paths throughout. We also hope to install storage and seating.

The project is designed specifically for the elderly or less able who are finding their plots difficult to maintain. This will give them the opportunity to continue with their hobby, get some exercise and enjoy the companionship of other plot holders.

We'll be organising a number of volunteer sessions to clear the site and start construction in the near future – if you'd like to get involved, please let us know.

Likewise, if you would like to move to one of the raised beds once they're completed or know of anyone that would, get in touch.

COMMUNITY HUT OPENING: With restrictions easing we're hoping to open up the community hut from May 17th. As a reminder, the hut has a kettle, tea and coffee making facilities as well as a microwave and first aid kit.

WATER SUPPLY: A polite request please, to make sure that taps are turned off when you've finished using them and hoses disconnected. The water pressure on site is high and hoses still connected often blow off, wasting water and causing flooding. If you have any dripping taps, let us know and we can arrange with the council to get them fixed.

PARKING PASSES: We currently only have 10 parking passes to share between the large number of plot holders that have signed up to use them this year. With the growing season under way and the site getting busy, we'd be really grateful if everyone could make sure that they return the pass promptly at the end of their session and remember to lock the box securely. Unfortunately there have been a number of resident complaints about people

misusing the passes and the council have asked us to remind everyone that the passes are for allotment use only. If there are no passes available when you arrive, you will unfortunately have to pay for parking by phone or Ringo

RECYCLE TABLE AND BINS: We try very hard not to sound like a broken record, but we have to appeal again to everyone not to leave rubbish on the recycle table or by the bin. If the bin is overfull or containing green waste the council may refuse to take it, or even take the bin away. If the bin is full, please wait until the next week when it's emptied.

Finally, as a bit of inspiration for all of us, we've had news that Mr and Mrs Owen have had a plot on site for over 50 years! It's an incredible achievement and we hope they enjoy their plot for many years to come.

Kind Regards

BRAHA Committee

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