



Dear Tenant,

We hope that you are well on the way in this year's growing season. The inclement weather has certainly been a challenge with the frosts and recent rain storms. Here's hoping to some warmer weather soon.

We would like to update you on what the Alliance has been up to and some important information that you need to know.

COVID-19

With restrictions being lifted, tenants should still be reminded of those still in place and be practicing good hygiene – washing hands, using hand gel etc.

Allotment plots should not be used for social gatherings even if they aren't breaking the guidelines. Tenants and visitors to the site should be considerate to the local surroundings.

Cockerels

We have seen an increase in complaints regarding cockerel noise from a number of sites. Please ensure that you do not have any cockerels on your plot. They are not permitted under the Allotments Act 1950 and also under the agreement we have with RMBC. If noise nuisance continues, tenants can be fined by RMBC Enforcement.



£100k Capital Expenditure

We are now underway with the more of the capital works programme following the covid-19 delays. We are hoping to fulfil as many projects. Our main focus has been on health and safety – asbestos removal, perimeter fencing and improvements to tracks onsite on a number of sites.



We are now awaiting approval of some projects from RMBC and working with contractors to get dates booked in. Some projects will be funded by the Alliance's surplus from 2020 and we will also be seeking funding from outside organisations. Tenants will be informed if works are taking place on a site.

The Charitable Status application is now being processed so if approved, that will allow us to claim back any VAT paid. These funds will help towards any future projects.

NAS Membership

It was agreed by members at our AGM in March 2021 that all shareholders will have the opportunity to become members of the National Allotment Society as part of their tenancy. We are currently working with NAS to ensure that tenants will be able to receive all the benefits. You will be contacted in due course in regard to the consent for passing on your personal details to NAS. You will either receive an email or a letter with a deadline to respond by.



Grounds Maintenance



Following consultation last year, it was decided that the grass and hedge cutting would remain the RAA's responsibility and the contract with RMBC continue. The directors have had a number of meetings with RMBC Grounds Maintenance / Streetpride to address problems previously encountered. The RAA have been assured that the grass and hedge cutting service will be of a better standard. We will be monitoring this and would be grateful if tenants could report back any issues. Pest control arrangements will also remain the same for the time being. Contracts will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

We are also sad to announce the death of our Treasurer – Al Dean. Al was the secretary of Broom Valley New site and was a founder member of the Alliance, having been involved from the very beginning. He was dedicated to the allotments and the Alliance and will be greatly missed.

Information for tenants

If anyone would like any information or advice on any aspect of their tenancy or site, please contact our Allotment Support Assistant, Donna, who will be happy to help. If the Alliance doesn't have your email address, please let us know as this is the quickest way to pass information on. You can also find more information on our website and Facebook page.

We wish you a very productive growing season.