

Ockbrook and Borrowash Parish Council

Allotment Report 2017-2018

Concerns were raised by allotment holders regarding planning permission being given for two new houses at the side of Elm Street Allotments. Although this permission was granted, the Parish Council had not given consent for access over the land that they own immediately inside the gated area and certainly no permission had been granted for the laying of utilities across this area. The situation is being monitored as to whether the builder concerned finds an alternative route or seeks permission from the Parish Council.

We had request s for two new taps to be installed at Elm Street which was looked at by Wayne Peapell and although this has not been done as yet, plans have been made to pass this job on to Simon Powell and hopefully this will be actioned in the next few months.

There were a number of complaints regarding bonfires on Elm Street Allotments and letters were sent out to a few allotment holders regarding this. I also visited one allotment holder and politely asked that the bonfires were kept to a minimum and used only to burn allotment waste. There have been no recent complaints and hopefully this is now resolved. There was also some dispute as to whether the smoke had actually all been coming from the allotments and some may well have been from elsewhere.

Wayne has been very active in trimming the hedges in both Elm Street and Shacklecross allotments and strimming and tidying up as necessary. In addition he filled two skips of waste which had accumulated over time and needed sorting out.

I noted that the allotments could do with being numbered as it was very difficult for a new chairman or anyone else to identify plots. Wayne has made a start on this and has made about 30 number boards. He is just waiting to find out the exact numbers needed and will then be able to do the rest. This will make it very easy going forward when they are all completed and installed.

I was invited and attended the Annual Allotment Show at Collyers Nursery Borrowash which the allotment holders hold annually and it was lovely to see all their produce on show. It is a day very much enjoyed by all concerned and the allotment holders were quite rightly very proud of their displays. We were asked as a Parish Council to send a letter of thanks to Collyers for hosting this event.

I had a number of meetings with Dave and Julie Smith and liased with them throughout my time as Chair of Allotments and found this to be very useful. Allotments that had fell into a state of disrepair were identified by us and letters sent out accordingly.

Karen Knapp

Chair of Allotments