

## COMMITTEE REPORT 2020-2022

Many of you have mentioned that our site has provided an invaluable lifeline over the past two years. We were able to put sufficient measures in place to meet whatever guidelines/restrictions were placed upon us and ensure that we could all attend our plots and be as safe as possible. Thank you all for helping us to achieve this. Many people agreed that the site had never looked so well cultivated.

A couple of plant swaps were held over the past 2 years but unfortunately, we have not been able to hold any of our usual events during this time. We will do all we can to reinstate our popular regular functions in the year ahead.

Similarly, BAF were unable to hold their usual borough wide plot competitions but did arrange a photographic one. 2 of our plot holders, Graham Fletcher and Bill Hancock won 2nd prize and a highly commended respectively in the 2020 competition. Many congratulations to them!

Bonfires on site were restricted in 2020, partly as a result of an increasing number of complaints from neighbours and plot holders. You will be aware that we have held a few “communal” bonfires. This will continue and appears to be the way forward.

We took advantage of a Council run scheme for the disposal of green waste using skips provided for that purpose. Although not without problems, it has proved to be much appreciated by plotholders. It is, however, a very expensive solution to a problem and we may have to seriously consider whether it is viable going forward. We know that one of the reasons for the “over-use” of the skip is some members’ failure to compost suitable green waste. We have recently decided to pause provision of the green skip until the end of the summer.

It has been necessary to have several general skips on site to clear rubbish from vacant plots and to get rid of the inevitable accumulation of “stuff” on existing plots. *We appeal to plot holders not to bring materials to the site that they do not intend to put to immediate use.* If a plot holder has brought materials to the site, it is unreasonable for them to expect the Association to pay for their removal. The frequent hiring of skips is an expensive solution that is not sustainable, long term. **Ideas please!**

About 30 new plot holders have been welcomed to our site over the last 2 years. Graham and now David have been working extremely hard to let plots as soon as possible after they become vacant.

There are presently over 50 people on our waiting list. To help accommodate the rising number of hopeful plot holders, it has become necessary to increase the number of half plots. This should also help members to achieve well cultivated plots.

Several Committee members have resigned over the last couple of years. Graham Fletcher, Claire Peposhi and Seth Reid have all stepped down recently. We would like to thank them for their services to the site.

As many of you will have heard, George has also stepped down from his role as Chair and from the Committee. We're sure you will join us in thanking him for his many years of service, the last 7 of which has been as Chair. Our site has certainly benefited enormously from his dedication and commitment.

We will be operating without a Chair for the time being.

The 2019 Committee Report outlined some proposed plans for a community building. We have put these plans on hold for the time being and instead, we will concentrate our efforts on improving the facilities we already have. We have been considering a re-furbishing or a replacement of the toilets in the Park Rd car-park and revisiting the idea of a composting toilet near the Trading Hut.

Work to clear brambles and self-seeded trees along the Belmont Ave boundary is being carried out to improve the growing opportunities in that area.

We would like to thank Lewis Lovett for his continuing efforts in keeping our website updated. Please remember to refer to it for useful information. He does a fantastically efficient job. Many thanks also go to John Hawkins for managing our Facebook pages. It would be good if we could have more contributors for this. It really could be a very useful tool for the sharing and exchanging of ideas, photographs etc.

Work parties were held on a regular basis before the constraints of the last couple of years and we will hopefully be reinstating them very soon. We did hold one quite recently to clear the Park Road carpark and drive. It was very well attended, and we managed the job in a remarkably short time. All help from plot-holders is greatly valued. Thank you, Charlie, for keeping the Cat Hill carpark swept and weeded. We would appreciate more volunteers to help keep other communal areas swept and mown.

We have recently lost 3 plotholders. Thrassos Nadiotis, Doug Briggs and Dante Guarnieri have sadly died over the last 2 years. Our thoughts are with their family and friends.