



Allotment Newsletter

Issue 9# (18 March 2024)
Spring 2024

Welcome to the spring edition of our Newsletter which aims to keep allotment plot holders up to date with things being discussed and decisions taken by the Town Council plus other "gardening" and Shipley related news that might be of interest. Hopefully the weather will soon be taking a turn for the better and support your growing plans for this year!

If there are specific issues you would like covered, features including or have things you want to share please do get in touch.

Helen Mawson, Deputy Town Clerk

Allotment Rent 2025/26

As you know the rent for this year (2024/25) is increasing by £1 taking it to £49.00 per full price plot per year (concessions being half price), with the water contribution remaining at £22 per annum. Hopefully you will agree that this is still very good value for money. Invoices will be sent via email towards the end of April/May due for payment no later than 31 December, so please look out for them.

In considering allotment plot rent for 2025/26 the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee resolved to increase these in line with inflation. ***You are therefore advised that with effect from April 2025 the full price plot rate per year will be £51.00.*** A review is being conducted of water usage and cost to ensure that contributions cover costs.

If anyone experiences difficulties paying their rent, please do speak to Helen in the Town Council office.

Boundary Works at Red Beck

Anyone that has been to their plot at Red Beck recently may have seen some clearing of trees on the lower boundary.



Red Beck allotment boundary from the old Crossley Evens site

This has been undertaken on behalf of Network Rail to repair boundary fencing. You may have seen in the press that the site below the allotments, previously used by Crossley Evans, is being prepared to return to use as a railway depot. It is anticipated that such use may well inadvertently increase security across the allotments, as well as proving quieter neighbours than the scrap yard!

Shipley in Bloom Community Allotment

Volunteers held a public meeting at the beginning of the year to collect ideas for getting the best out of the community allotment at Red Beck. These included growing fruit, vegetables and flowers for transplanting around Shipley, holding introduction to gardening sessions and cook and eat workshops.



Lisa Knipe, Shipley in Bloom coordinator surveying the community allotment

An application has been made to CNET for a grant to create raised beds in which to start these activities. Fingers crossed for a positive outcome!

Green Grants

The Town Council has been able to support 7 local projects through its participatory budgeting scheme which saw local people present their ideas to the Shipley public, who then voted on their favourites. Many of these were aimed at supporting nature and included grants being awarded to:

- Jo Pike to build a Local Sustainable Food Network; pilot - consumption of locally grown fruit
- Louise Yates for an edible planting scheme at Wash House Gardens, Caroline Street, Saltaire; helping local people connect with nature and increase confidence in picking and eating nutritious plants, and

- Saltaire Primary Eco Club for the creation of an Outdoor Zone of plants and wildlife in school grounds as a learning area (this one is sponsored by Shipley in Bloom)

The Town Council's website has full details of all the grants awarded and how you can get involved.

Share Your Spare - Shipley Allotment Group

A simple scheme, where allotment tenants are invited to put their spare fruit and veg in a box on a specific day each week and someone takes it to a local food aid project, hopes to expand in Shipley. Northcliffe allotments are already participating, ensuring that any spare produce is put to good use to help people in need.

Cathy Henwood, Feeding Bradford & Keighley Development Worker responsible for the scheme says "most allotment holders get gluts at times - rhubarb will shortly be growing like mad, followed by salad crops coming in, later in the summer most of us end up with just too many courgettes and runner beans!"



Do let your Site Representative or the Deputy Town Clerk know if you would like to get involved or if there is anything the Town Council do to support your involvement.

The scheme can even supply the empty box!

Community, Heritage and Future Technology Centre, Caroline Street

Plans for the new Shipley College building, funded by the Shipley Town Fund, have now been approved by Bradford Council. As it will be erected along the allotment boundary (and contain new public toilets to be operated by the Town Council) the Town Council is arranging to meet with College and project leads to understand the timeframes for the project plan. As part of this, a briefing for allotment plot holders will be arranged - look out for the date and venue.

Community Awards

For the first time this year the Town Council will be seeking nominations to recognise people who go above and beyond to support Shipley. The awards will be made as part of the Annual Town Meeting in May. Get your thinking caps on and watch out for your opportunity to nominate your community champions.



Sid with his Royal Horticultural Society "Yorkshire in Bloom Community Champion" award in 2023 for his garden on Asda's car park

Wanted - Deputy Site Representative for Red Beck

Would you like to see what is involved in being an allotment Site Representative? Rosie would welcome some assistance with Red Beck. The role isn't onerous. It involves showing new plot holders around, keeping communal areas tidy and liaising with the Town Council on behalf of plot holders.

If you think you could offer some support to Rosie, please have a chat with her or Helen Mawson, Deputy Town Clerk.

Safety, Security and Vandalism

Last year, sadly there were a couple of thefts of equipment from plots. These were reported to the police. There has recently been some vandalism to trees on site, and these are being inspected to see if they can be saved.

Please be vigilant, store any valuables securely and report any concerns to the neighbourhood policing team (who are including our allotment sites in their patrols) and town council office.

Wildlife cameras (and notices advising of the use of CCTV), where these are installed, can also provide some useful information. If this is something you would be interested in exploring the VanBangTec, NewBull and Apeman ranges have been recommended as value for money options.

Allotment Water Supplies

It is planned to turn on the water supply to the allotments on Friday 29 March. Last year, when doing so, several leaks were experienced, particularly across Red Beck. Please be vigilant again this year as any leaks that are found will need to be repaired to conserve water.

Horse Manure!

[Roleystone Horse Sanctuary](#), Westfield Lane, Wrose, BD18 1LJ is offering free horse manure for use on allotment plots. It is available for collection only (they are unable to deliver) and can be contacted via Gillian Greenwood on 07779 689736.

Bonfire Policy

Just a reminder that with effect from the end of March there should no longer be any fires lit until October. When the policy was introduced by the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee it was agreed that bonfires be monitored for any nuisance caused. The Committee would then review the policy. The emphasis should remain on composting or taking items to the recycling centre, as both are better for the environment.

Membership of the National Allotment Society (NAS)



The Town Council has renewed its membership of NAS and you are therefore able to keep up to date with their electronic magazine. Take a look at the latest [NAS membership magazine here](#) - with expert articles on allotment water matters, planning your plot, helping hedgehogs, seasonal recipes, potato growing and much more! You can also discover what's happening on allotments up and down the country, including an educational project in Yeovil, the Harrogate Show here in Yorkshire and new allotment achievements in West Sussex.

If you would like to receive every copy that comes out just let Helen know and she will forward each link.

Plot Inspections 2024

And finally, a little bit of advanced warning - this year's plot inspections will take place in July and councillors are looking forward to once more seeing the results of the hard work and dedication that goes into allotment plots.

Allotments & Green Spaces Committee and Allotment Holders' Forum 2023/24

All are welcome to attend meetings of the Allotments & Green Spaces Committee. The next on is on **Tuesday 30 April 2024**, at 7pm in Shipley Library preceded by the Allotment Holders' Forum at 6pm

Staying in Touch

Shipley Town Council can be contacted at deputyclerk@shipleytowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 07517 742566.

Your site representatives are:

Red Beck - Rosie, plot 37 (telephone 07870 362975)

Caroline Street - Mr Chris Cooper, plot 21/22 (Chrisinsaltaire@sky.com)