

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Leisure & Amenities Committee

Allotments Report

1 Background:

- 1.1 The *Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908* imposed a duty on councils – which remains in force - to provide allotments if six or more people say that they want them. West Swindon Parish Council is meeting its obligations under the duty through the allotment site at Blagrove.
- 1.2 The Blagrove Allotment Site currently has thirty one tenant allotment holders, of whom, six do not live in the Parish.

2. Arrangements for 2019/2010

- 2.1 One tenant has recently given notice to their plot. Work will need to be undertaken to bring this plot into a lettable state. It is proposed that this plot be divided into two half plots and relet in the Autumn. Warning letters have been sent to two other plot holders who have not maintained their plots this year.
- 2.2 Blagrove Allotment site is generally low maintenance. Plot holders request bark to be dropped off at intervals throughout the year to support mulching and paths. Requests have been made to install road scalplings at the top end of the site to enable parking by allotments in the winter/wet season. The site would generally benefit from some attention and organisation.
- 2.3 Allotment holders are sent an annual invoice in October for the following season. The Fees for 2018/2019 were as follows

	Cost for Full Plot	Cost for Half Plot
West Swindon - Blagrove	£61.20	£30.60
Parish Discount for Residents	£45.90	£22.95

This is comparable to the rates set by other Parishes however plot sizes may vary.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Councillors to agree the plot fees for 2019/2020.
- 3.2 Councillors to agree a meeting of the Allotment Working Party with allotment representatives in early October.

**Paula Harrison
Parish Manager**