

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**Update on Blagrove Allotments****1. Background**

- 1.1 Blagrove allotments is based off Frankland Road – Industrial Estate. The site has 30 half plots and 6 full plots.
- 1.2 3 half plot tenants and 1 full plot tenant are not resident in West Swindon.
- 1.3 The Parish Council charged £35 for a half plot and £70 for a full plot to non West Swindon residents. Parish residents were given a discount and paid £24 for a half plot and £48 for a full plot.
- 1.4 West Swindon Parish Council currently has 54 residents on the waiting list.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The Allotment Working Party is continuing to work towards finding options for residents in respect of identifying new land for allotments, community gardening and change of use of other spaces.
- 2.2 It is noted that this was a challenging year for the allotment site. There were complaints regarding
 - problems with the entrance gate
 - a long standing pool of water at the entrance
 - infrequent supply of bark waste chippings
 - poor maintenance of plots resulting in tall weeds on existing plots
- 2.3 To remedy this, the Parish team have
 - raised the entrance gates
 - created drainage channels across the entrance which appear to be working
 - supplied green waste chippings from the Parish chipper
 - all plots are now let

Fees

- 2.2 Total income generated each year is up to £900

For the next year's allotment fees it is proposed that

- the resident discount is removed as the majority of tenants are West Swindon residents. This would result in £35 for a half plot and £70 for a full plot. This could be an incremental increase.
- non Swindon residents are charged an annual increase of 10% resulting in £38.50 for half plot and £77.00 for a full plot.

3. Recommendations:

- 3.1 That Councillors note the report and set the allotment fees for 2022-23.

Paula Harrison Parish Manager