

HRAA: SITC liaison meeting 11-Oct-2010

Present

Councillor Ian Dobson	SITC	Richard Weightman	HRAA
Councillor Brian Luter	SITC	Ray Frodsham	HRAA
Alison Melnychuk	SITC	Jude Onger	HRAA
Jayne Westlake	SITC		
Adrian Surkitt	SITC		

MINUTES

Topic

Action

1. General progress

HRAA wished it to be noted that a lot had been achieved on the allotment site and thanked the groundsmen for their hard work over the summer and particularly since the last meeting. The site in general was looking very neat and tidy.

2. Update on actions from 13-Jan-2010

1. Mulch had been delivered recently, organised by the Groundsman. This was delivered as a favour to HDC but could not be distributed around site to different points. Those who do not have plots at the bottom of the track and who work during the week did not benefit from such deliveries.

SITC agreed to put a notice for attention of all allotment holders when mulch was being delivered.

SITC

Need to dispose of old bike which was apparently delivered with the woodchips

SITC

2. Second gate from car park at bottom corner of lot 129 needs making good so that people walking/taking wheelbarrows can continue to do so in winter. SITC Agreed to make a proper path around the gate.

SITC

3. Drainage had recently been put in between lower end of car park and meadow, by HDC. HRAA pointed out that the bottom of the field will still flood, probably inadvertently made worse by mole drainage which lead water down to the lowest point. SITC to continue to improve drainage along bottom edge of site including clearing ditch of leaves where water flows through grid and into main drain, under entrance to car park.

SITC

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4. Dog walking sign still lying behind earth bank. HRAA explained that there was to be a discussion with members at the AGM as to whether a total ban on dogs on site was wanted, following recent incidents where dogs attacked members. Dependent on the outcome of these discussions, HRAA may ask SITC to revert to a no dogs on site policy.	
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3. Update on actions from 13-Jan-2010	
1. Still not clear how groundsmen will maintain hedge between field and new plots. Groundsmen to spray off and mulch hedge areas including cemetery.	SITC
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4. Update on action from 22nd July 2010	
1. No further progress on state of car park and siting of road planings. Poor state of bank adjacent to car park was discussed. HRAA expressed opinion that the bank could have been grassed down a year ago and wasn't. SITC had said that it would be planted with shrubs. This is still the plan, but HRAA wish it to be noted that it will be difficult to weed amongst shrubs. If SITC wish to put in wildlife friendly plants these could be planted along the edge of the car park and in front of the bank and do not need to be on the bank itself. HRAA pointed out the problems caused by spraying off areas with total herbicide, which just encourages annual weeds to grow. Grass can be encouraged if necessary by using a selective lawn herbicide. SITC to get bank in order over coming season.	SITC
2. Area of former plot 1 was inspected. This is going to have a concrete base for burning materials safely, and will have a track laid along side and through the hedge into the top of the new plots on the meadow. Agreed that this would not commence until November when hedge will be dormant and plants can be transplanted to bottom of site. There may also be room for another allotment plot.	SITC
3. Plots 90/91 were visited. Agreed that these would be brought into use when constraints on budget means SITC can hire a digger to level ground.	SITC
4. Plans for communal hut discussed. SITC do not have funds to arrange for lease to be drawn up (£750). Proposed that HRAA could ask for this sum to put in budget for year 2011/12, but this	

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<p>would still be subject to approval by full council. Regarding alternative 'deed of gift', SITC had been advised that this was not sound legally. HRAA encouraged to ask membership if there is a lawyer who could help draw up an agreement out of good will, that would then simply need to be approved by SITC. HRAA to ask membership about possibility of using lawyer, and in meantime, to write formally to council regarding including £750 in budget for next financial year.</p>	HRAA
<p>5. In preparation for an application for lottery funding for a communal hut and facilities HRAA are amending their constitution to include equal opportunities and policy regarding safety of children and vulnerable adults. HRAA reported that a toilet was still high list of demands by members following completion of a questionnaire. HRAA to look into composting toilet.</p>	HRAA
<p>5. Hedge SITC raised concern over new plot holders walking through hedge. HRAA acknowledged that this was also a concern for the Association and had been discussed at a recent committee meeting, but there was little HRAA can do as most of the culprits appear to be non-HRAA members. It will need a concerted effort next year by groundsmen to get the lower hedge growing well so that it fills out, by keeping on top of weeds and trimming hedge to make it branch out. Agreed that SITC would prepare signage to warn plot holders about walking through the hedge, and HRAA to shame people into complying.</p>	SITC/HRAA
<p>6. Allotment rents SITC floated idea of adjusting allotment rents to more closely match plot sizes a number of anomalies had arisen over the years. This would require further discussion, but HRAA noted that all plot holders benefit from water, tracks and general upkeep of site and so plot rental does not necessarily reduce <i>pro rata</i> by having a smaller plot. SITC to discuss and propose alternative rental system for discussion.</p>	SITC
<p>7. Wooden boxing HRAA noted that the wooden box next to the water butt by plot 151 was of poor quality and it is hoped that this could be improved at some point to a more professional standard.</p>	
<p>8. Community orchard SITC raised option of planting a community orchard.</p>	

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HRAA do not have a problem with this once drainage has been sorted at the bottom of the site. Further discussion will be required as to who plans and maintains it.

9. **Bee keeping**

SITC asked whether HRAA had any thoughts on keeping bees, for instance if anybody suffered from anaphylactic shock. HRAA do not have an opinion or any knowledge of whether anyone would be against keeping bees, although it is known a couple of members are interested. SITC also suggested designating a particular plot to keep bees on. HRAA counselled against this as such plots can attract unwelcome attention, particularly in terms of vandalism, and are better kept sheltered and out of site within plots. HRAA agreed to raise the question at the AGM on the 19th.

HRAA
