



## Introduction from Cllr Moncur

Welcome to this, the first ever newsletter to our allotment holders. I hope that you find it informative and useful. Included in the newsletter is an update on the recent consultation, tips for spring and a reminder on non-cultivated plots.

The coming months are set to bear fruit (and veg!) both on and off the plot as Officers work hard to develop a strategy for allotments and provide an improved service for you, our tenants.

Cllr Ian Moncur,  
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing at Sefton Council



## Consultation Results

You may remember last summer we held a consultation on Allotments across Sefton. This was by far the most popular consultation Green Sefton has ever run with nearly 850 responses! We would like to thank those of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire which will help shape the future of allotments in Sefton.

Officers have spent a vast number of hours digesting and analysing the results of this survey to look for trends and create a summary report. As with all consultations undertaken in Sefton, this summary report is presented to the consultation panel, with the next one scheduled in March. Once it has been through the panel, we will release the results to allotment holders and residents of Sefton.

The consultation results are already helping to prepare a strategy that will shape the way we deliver allotments across the borough. Updates will be featured in this newsletter and a draft strategy will be shared with allotment holders and other stakeholders in due course.

## Allotment Strategy

One of the reasons behind the large-scale consultation last year was to look at how we can improve the service we offer to allotment holders, associations and those looking to obtain an allotment.

The strategy will paint the current picture based on the survey results, identify where we want to be and set out how we can get there.

This will be an important document and will link into the wider 2030 vision for Sefton Council and the Green Sefton Strategy to ensure an excellent service for allotments.



## Thinking of giving up?

It's coming up to the new financial year and people are thinking about their plots and what they intend to do this year. There are some plot holders who may be considering leaving their plots and there are some who have overgrown plots.

Each year several people end up paying for a plot after they have left due to a misunderstanding around their tenancy agreement. If you want to give up your plot and not pay your annual rental, you need to have given your notice before the end of February 2022.

## Be Kind

As an allotment holder, you spend a considerable amount of time on your plot and we would hope that you are able to enjoy it. Allotments can have a real sense of community and we want to encourage that where possible.

However, occasionally things can happen on a site that is not what we would expect. For example, if you suspect an item has been stolen, please report this to the police and share the crime reference number with our team or the site association for record keeping.

Please remember, tools etc are your responsibility and should be stored safely (or off site) to prevent opportunistic crime.

Anyone who is found to harass or discriminate against others on site will be removed from the site, so please be kind.

## Keep us informed

We always aim to keep our records up to date so we can communicate effectively with you. If your home address, email or phone number change, please do let us know as soon as possible.

## How we manage non-cultivated plots

Often plots aren't cultivated for a variety of reasons, so we try and work with plot holders to get them into a cultivated state. If you suffer from ill-health or there are other reasons why you can't tend your plot, please let us know.

We would rather work with tenants to ensure that they can keep their plot if they wish to than remove them for non-cultivation. On average we remove 20 tenants each year but work with many more to get plots back into an acceptable state.

If you are having difficulty tending your plot, speak to others on site who may help and let us know by contacting us on [allotments@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@sefton.gov.uk)

## Things to do to prepare for spring

Warmer weather and longer days are just around the corner as spring approaches. While not much is growing at the moment, there is plenty that you can do on your plot at this time of year to make life easier through the spring through to autumn.

Bedding areas can be prepared with weeds removed and fertiliser added where needed. Some seeds can be sown later on with cloches to keep them warm in case of frost.

Pruning of fruit trees and bushes can also be done and you can start using the greenhouse (if you have one) to germinate more delicate vegetables.

These are just some ideas on what you can be doing – you may already have your own but don't forget to harvest your winter crops too!

Let us know if there are any topics or tips you think might be of interest for future newsletters.



GET IN TOUCH

 [allotments@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@sefton.gov.uk)