

**Allotment Report February 2025**

Wem Town Council currently has 66 allotments located at Love Lane for the residents of Wem.

Currently all allotments are let, we have 8 new tenants during 24/25 and have a waiting list of 2 people.

Formal inspection takes place every 4 months to check allotments are being cultivated and being maintained by tenants to an acceptable standard.

Cllr Paul Johnson accompanies an officer on this inspection.

To date we have carried out 4 formal inspections this year, most recent on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

In the event a plot is not being maintained, breaching the tenancy agreement a letter is sent to the tenant requesting improvement unless mitigating circumstances such as poor health. Following January's inspection 4 plots are being monitored for improvement.

We have continued to split plots if we are able when tenants give up their tenancy of either full or half size plots. This gives us more plots which are hopefully easier to maintain for tenants.

The retainer fee has been introduced to new tenants as agreed in October 2024, £50 for a quarter plot and £100 to cover the council's costs on tidying the plot before reletting in the event it is in poor condition.

Whilst we have a small waiting list, we are actively promoting the allotments to ensure we have full occupancy.

**Communication to Allotment tenants**

We have set up a group e-mail to enable us to communicate to allotment holders, recent communication requested any feedback. The allotments are visited regularly and January and February have seen many tenants preparing plots for spring, evidence of a strong community with tenants sharing gardening tips and social conversation.

**Water troughs**

All the water troughs have been inspected, emptied and cleaned ready for spring.

**Allotment Activity**

There seems to be a thriving community at Love Lane and some great networking among the tenants, which supports health and wellbeing.

**Promotion possible events**

Following feedback from Allotment Tenants we are planning a meet your neighbour event in the spring.

National Allotment week is 11 – 17 August 2025 which we are planning to support. This year theme is Allotments & Wellbeing.

We are keen to organise a plant swap, and have contacted other gardening organisations in Wem, With the idea of planning a community plant swop in the Spring.

### **Rent 2025 / 26**

Following Council approval there is a small increase in rent for 2025/26, letters are being prepared to communicate to tenants. In this communication Tennant's will be reminded of their tenancy agreements, ensuring plots are cultivated and inspected.

### **Plot Numbers**

Due to the complexity of the old numbering system which has caused difficulty in identifying plots and plot boundaries, all plots have been renumbered. Each full plot has been split into quarters and each quarter given an individual number. Signs have now been erected on plots showing the new numbering system, which has clarified plot boundaries. It is now easier for potential new tenants to see the plots we have available.

New tenancy agreements will now have to be issued to all tenants so that they show the correct plot number.

### **Decision Needed**

**The Council is asked to approve the issuing of updated tenancy agreements to plot holders with the only change to the agreement being the plot number.**