

Godstone Parish Council

(incorporating the Villages of Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath)

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Salisbury Road Allotments Newsletter 2021

The Growing Season is upon us and unfortunately that includes weeds as well as plants.

This year we have seen some well looked after allotments but also a few which have had no attention including no payment to the Parish Council. It must be very disheartening if your allotment is next to one of these overgrown weed infested plots. At the July Parish Council meeting it was agreed to spend some of our limited money and try to arrange for a contractor to trim these allotments and to cancel our agreement with the allocated plot holder. This will mean that we will have some free allotments for rental.

- In our last newsletter we set out the legal Parish Councils legal responsibilities for allotments and again appealed for allotment holders to set up an allotment association. **Unfortunately, there has been no response to this.**
- We note that a new planning application to knock down the old garages and build two new bungalows has been submitted to Tandridge District Council. The Planning Application Number is 2021/1108 - *Demolition of a block of 19 domestic garages (retaining the rear wall). Erection of 2 no. detached, 2-bedroom bungalows with associated access improvements and parking/turning areas*
The parish council have debated this application and We give below our response to the TDC planning officer.
This proposal for two bungalows is a great improvement on previous applications for this site we would however question the retention of the

back wall of the garages as being practical. We would question whether there is sufficient room to accommodate the necessary land drainage for the two properties and roadways.

It is unfortunate that the opportunity to provide vehicular access to the Godstone village allotments has not been incorporated in the proposal as this would be of great benefit to the community.

Nevertheless, Godstone Parish offer no objection to this development.

Clearly if this planning application goes through it will certainly make the access to the allotment more difficult. The current access is only for pedestrians and not vehicles however in the past we have unofficially taken vehicles on to site to clear up rubbish however this will no longer be possible.

- We don't think it is appropriate to continue to hold allotment holder's meetings, however we do plan an open meeting on the allotment site at 7pm on Friday 20th August to discuss any issues that allotment holders would like to bring up. We have two suggestions for topics: - The Parish Council would be prepared to part fund a skip to enable the years of old junk that has accumulated on the allotments to be removed providing allotment holders form a working party to load the skip and make a small donation towards the cost. This would be subject to seeking agreement with the owner of the garages and would be the last opportunity if and before building takes place.
- A second suggestion would be to have one big bonfire at the end of the growing season and burn up combustible material. We do already have a volunteer who would manage this.

This is an example of the accumulated junk.



- Unfortunately, we have noticed a small amount of fly tipping that has occurred on the area near to the compost bins. We appeal to any allotment holder who knows anything about this to get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk.



- The new allotment numbering system and nice red numbers are now in place which after a little initial confusion has now been well received.



- As well as two lots of chicken on the allotments which surprisingly have survived the local foxes the Council has authorised the erection of two small sheds for the storage of tools and we are pleased to report that these have so far avoided the local vandals. The Council is happy to allow the erection of a small shed providing that permission is sought and it doesn't impact on neighbouring allotments.



The Parish Council would like to wish you all happy gardening and hope to see you on Friday 20th August.