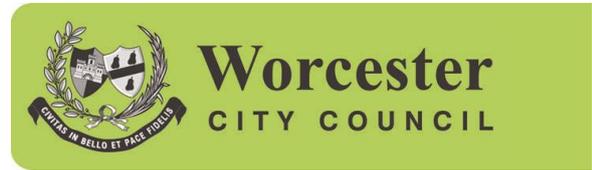




## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2018



The Allotment Forum comprises all of the Site Representatives for the Worcester City Council allotment Sites in the City and we meet with the Council approximately 10 times a year to discuss site management. We are all volunteers who have been willing to assist the Council this task but there is plenty of room for more help if anyone out there would like to join us. As Site Reps we are expected to ensure that all Sites are fully let and cultivated in accordance with the tenancy agreements, that rubbish is cleared and that Health and Safety regulations are complied with. There are good reasons for knowing your Site Rep and I believe most of us are pleasant, helpful people who can often help with any problems you may have if you just ask.

Please ensure that you make a friend of your Site Rep – they are the ones you need to talk to if Security of your plot is a problem or the water supply is an issue or if you just wish to assist in any way. They can often obtain supplies of free woodchips for your site and indeed you are required to tell them if any deliveries are made to your plots and to agree with them that these are allowed. Security of the sites is always a concern for us all and you need to ensure that gates are closed at all times. Gate/padlock codes should NOT be given to anyone other than the plot holders and co-workers who are registered users. Other people who need to access the Sites should be accompanied by the tenant, co-worker or the Site Rep.

If you are not happy with the Representative that has been appointed please do have a word with the Allotment Officer at this address

[Allotments@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:Allotments@worcester.gov.uk). New Site Reps can be appointed if enough of you request a change on your Site and you can find someone who is willing to volunteer in their place.

As a Forum, working with the City Council, we have resurrected the **Allotment Competition** over the last two years and with your enthusiasm and support we hope to continue. **A Face Book group** is being managed by the Forum for the exchange of views about growing etc. This seems to be popular and many of you are taking a more active interest in what is going on and exchanging views on a range of subjects about growing and using the produce etc. Please have a look and join this Group to make it even more effective.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1753134608041025/>



**We have an official website** which promotes our allotments and provides important advice about many aspects of its management – please take a look here:- <http://www.worcesterallotments.org.uk/>

As many of you will be aware the Councils have had to accept huge cutbacks in the last few years and this is why we are now relying on volunteers to manage the day to day running of the sites in the City. This situation is not likely to improve! Allotments could be under threat in future unless we all make it known that they are an important asset to the community. The Forum believes in encouraging the use of allotments for healthy eating, exercise, sociability, strong & improved mental health, teaching children the value of fresh food etc. They are also important wildlife habitats – many tenants are surprised to see the diversity which exists right there in the heart of our city and thriving where the tenants have provided a spot for them to live peacefully. There are so many reasons why we should hang on to our twenty or so sites and ensure that the value of the land itself does not devalue their use as allotment sites in our beautiful city. Councillors need to know this and we would ask that you take every opportunity to ensure that they all know that we value them greatly and we need full Council support to maintain them effectively for future generations.

Finally we all know that this season has not been an easy one and some of you are thinking about giving up. Your Site rep needs to know as soon as possible please to enable him/her to re-let the plot before it becomes overgrown and unattractive to the prospective tenant – the earlier the better but definitely by the beginning of September before the invoices go out for the next season. If you are giving up for health reasons we now have two sites in the City which have 4 raised beds each. These are specifically for those who are less able and who could not manage a half plot. They are currently £12 per year but the normal appropriate concessions apply.

Finally we wish you all well in the future and look forward to providing assistance for you to enjoy your gardening pursuits but we do need your co-operation and some help if you can manage it to ensure that this valuable commodity does not disappear from our City.

**Peter Parry, Worcester Allotment Forum Chairman, September 2018.**