



Coleshill Town Council

# Allotments Newsletter

June 2022

## Vacant Allotments

We are in the process of letting out the last few vacant allotments and we shall be conducting regular maintenance checks in order to ensure that the land is being cultivated and maintained.

If you know anyone who would like an allotment within Coleshill please do encourage them to join our waiting list as soon as possible. This way we can make sure there are people ready to continue cultivation as and when anyone decides to give up their tenancy.

## Allotment Competition



Judging for Coleshill Town Council's allotment competition 2022 will take place week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Prizes to be awarded for each site are:

Best Allotment:

1<sup>st</sup> £20 National Garden gift voucher & trophy

2<sup>nd</sup> £15 National Garden gift voucher

3<sup>rd</sup> £10 National Garden gift voucher

All allotment holders are automatically entered into the competition.

Awards will be presented at Coleshill Town Council's Allotment AGM

## Allotment AGM

Coleshill Town Council's Allotment AGM 2022 will be held at Coleshill Town Hall on

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 17.30

The AGM gives allotment holders the opportunity to speak directly with councillors regarding the allotments. There will be displays of local information as well as useful hints and tips. It also gives allotment holders the opportunity to socialise together and there will be refreshments available. Yearly rent can also be paid during the evening.

## Yearly Rent

Yearly rent for 2022/23 is due on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. All allotment holders will be

invoiced for their rent at the beginning of October.

Fees for the forthcoming allotment year is as follows:

Resident £30

Non-resident £50

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in anti-social behavior on Stonebridge allotment site. To help combat this Coleshill Town Council have introduced a scheme of defensive planting and boundary strengthening including the closure of the foot gate from the Memorial Park to the allotments and the inclusion of barbed wire.



Fortunately, this seems to have reduced anti-social behavior on the site with no further disturbances reported to the Town Council.



## 101 Call Logging

All anti-social behaviour, break ins and damage must be reported to the police on 101 or logged via the 101 website on:

<https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/>

The only exception to this is if the crime is actively in progress, if this is the case, please call 999.

The local PCSO's are holding a property marking event at Stonebridge Allotments on:

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 11am – 1pm.

Though this is being held at the Stonebridge site, the event is open to all allotment holders so please feel free to go along if you would like any tools, personal items or equipment marked.

Neighbourhood Watch will also be in attendance providing further crime prevention advice and will have items that could help secure your homes, sheds, garages, and outbuildings.

There are going to be more events like this at the allotment sites in and around Coleshill, more information can be found on:

<https://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk/newsite/>

Thank you to all the allotment holders that have taken the time to report these crimes it is making

a difference and the police are more aware than ever of the problems that we face.

## Good News Story

During the lockdowns of 2020/2021 Coleshill Town Council was inundated with applications from residents requesting allotments in Coleshill. Coleshill is lucky enough to have a thriving allotment community boasting 100+ allotments over three sites all managed by the Town Council, the allotments were soon full, and an extensive waiting list was building up.

That's when the Council decided to get in contact with Hayden Wright, Community Engagement Manager for Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV - the contractors engaged on the local sections of the HS2 works). To see if there was any help that they could provide in turning a section of the Stonebridge South allotment, that had been inactive for around 5 years, becoming very overgrown and unusable. Hayden and BBV were willing to help and got in touch with Tom Law from LYNCH plant hire who jumped at the opportunity to get involved!

Site meetings were held with all the relevant stakeholders including Coleshill Town Councillors and arrangements were made for the work to go ahead; BBV Utilities team scanned the area for the potential of hidden utilities, and an ecologist assessed the area and would also be present on site for when works took place, just in case there were any ecological constraints.

On Friday 10 December LYNCH plant hire provided an excavator and plant operator to begin levelling and clearing the land to

make the site into usable allotments for the council to then rent out in spring 2022.

Work on site took Nathan, Plant Operator, around four hours to complete and from the images, you can see how much difference this made! Well done to all involved!



For this work to be completed, the council tapped into BBV's 'Community Investment' scheme where all the resources, human and mechanical, are made available for community projects, free of charge. The diggers and lifting vehicles used would have been expensive if hired for the day by Coleshill Town Council but the people, fuel, insurance and all the equipment booked onto this job came free of any costs, thanks to the BBV scheme.



Happy Digging!

We wish you every success for the growing season ahead.

If you have any enquiries please contact Zoë on 01676 463 326 or [Zoë@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Zoë@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk)