

# **GINHALL LANE ALLOTMENTS**

## **PROTOCOL FOR HELP SCHEME ON ALLOTMENT SITE**

### **BACKGROUND**

Currently there is no system to assist those allotment gardeners who are temporarily indisposed and, where help is given, it is on an ad hoc basis. Consequently an allotment gardener may return to the allotment site following a period of absence and decide to give up an overgrown plot.

### **RATIONALE**

It does not take long before a plot can become weed-ridden and following an absence from the allotment it can be a daunting prospect to return an unruly plot to a manageable state.

With a co-ordinated help scheme of volunteer gardeners who, in such an event could offer about an hour's help per week to a fellow gardener, the return to gardening would be a positive experience and may prevent someone having to give up their plot.

### **PROCESS**

- Each allotment gardener will be asked if they wish to contribute to the help scheme
- The kind of help needed may be:-
  - Watering, deadheading, planting, sowing, weeding, digging, harvesting, grass cutting, tip runs, turning compost, or just giving a lift to the allotment
- The site manager will maintain a current list of helpers and the type of help they can offer
- The site manager will identify those who may be in need of help through the monthly monitoring process and from individuals who make direct contact with the town council office
- The site manager will co-ordinate the help scheme according to the needs of the individual and the type of help available
- The site manager will monitor the situation and if necessary will negotiate other options such as reducing the plot size or offering a mini plot if the individual's circumstances change

## **OUTCOME**

- All allotment gardeners will be aware that temporary help is available and how to access it via the site manger
- Some allotment gardeners will be able to continue gardening who otherwise would have had to give up their plots
- Contributions of help from allotment gardeners will be hugely beneficial for community spirit

The help scheme will ensure increased retention and stability within the allotment community

**WRITTEN BY LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF  
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