

CROSSPOOL FORUM – Special Allotment OPEN MEETING
Friday 5th Sep '14
Bullet Points

Present: 53 Crosspool residents, Cllrs Geoff Smith & Ann Murphy,, Ceri Ashton (Allotment manager, Sheffield City Council) PC Louise Atha, PCSOs Pam Thompson, Gary Hizam, & Phil Whittaker...

Ian Hague (Chair of the Crosspool Forum), was asked to chair this meeting in view of recent vandalism, theft & arson at the Council's allotments on Marsh Lane, Crosspool..

Allotment tenants from Marsh Lane neighbouring Hagg Lane, and also Rosco Bank & Rivelin attended, with a view to discussing how to prevent such problems in the future.

The following proposals were brought forward;

- 1/ ensuring Crookes Cemetery gates are locked at night;
- 2/ erecting some form of spiked palisade fencing (- possibly 2.4m high) at the back of the cemetery to prevent unauthorized access to the allotments from the cemetery,
- 3/ closing the unauthorized rough 'path' at the back of Marsh Lane allotments leading from the public footpath that starts on Marsh Lane – health & safety issues as well as illegal entry.
- 4/ investigating CCTV camera provision
- 5/ starting an Allotment Watch group & exploring greater self-help
- 6/ Hagg Lane – provision of stronger lockable pole barrier at end of lane.
- 7/ Allotment groups to look into acquiring a steel 'container' for all tools etc to be locked away in. (Funding for this might be available from various sources).
- 8/ exploring more community involvement in allotments – school group visits, school liaison officers discussing vandalism etc in schools
- 9/ ensuring internal hedges are kept at 5 ft., external ones 6 ft. for easier monitoring of the allotments

PC Atha urged residents to report (using the 101 number – calls cost 15p no matter how long they take) any suspiciously parked vehicles, or even small thefts or incidents. Any equipment stored on the allotments must be listed at home & marked – UV pens, 'smart water' forensic kits, or recoded online on 'immobilize' – with the owner's post code and/or plot number.

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting is on 24th Sep (7pm) at Christchurch, Fulwood. For anyone interested the secretary is Pat Wilkins - patwilkins26@hotmail.co.uk; 0114 2304416.

Cllr Smith pledged to pursue the issues raised & hold a follow-up meeting in due course.