

Members' survey

100 forms available, 91 issued 49 returned, of which 44 (66%) were plot holders, there are 67 plot holders. Society membership, 31st March 2023 is 133, (36% return). (There has been four additional returns after the closing date).

This survey aims to:

- 1 Provide a profile of members.
- 2 Establish the interests and expectations of members

Start of the survey

Section 1: Provide a profile of members.

1.1 Gender:

Female	21
Male	24
Prefer not to say	4

1.2 Age range

Age range	
Under 25years	1
26 to 35 years	5
35 to 55 years	5
56 to 65 years	12
66 years plus	36

1.3 Marital status

Single	2
Widowed	0
Married/partnership	44
Prefer not to say	3

1.4 Employment

Employed: full time	11
Employed: part time	4
Not in employment	2
Unable to work	0
Retired	31
Student	0
Other	1

1.5 Disability

Long standing condition	6
Mobility issues	1
Physical impairment	1
Deaf/hearing issue	3
Visual impairment	1
Other	1
No known disability	30
Prefer not to say	6

1.6 How long have you had an allotment

Less than 1 year	3
2-5 years	13
6-10 years	17
11-15 years	5
16-20 years	5
More than 21years	4

1.7 What is your reason for wanting an allotment. Please tick all that apply.

I like grow my own fresh food for myself and my family	36
I don't have a garden.	1
My garden isn't big enough.	17
I like gardening to improve my health/well-being	33
I like to have an allotment to get some fresh air and exercise	34
I like to have a better connection with nature	30
Since the Coronavirus lockdown, I've realised getting an allotment is important to me	8
I like to meet and talk socially with other gardeners/members	19
I would like to have a practical hobby/interest	14
I have an interest in nature	22
Other reasons: mental health	1

1.8 How do you use your plot, Please tick all that apply.

I have created a plot of raised beds	10
I have cultivated the whole plot	23
I have cultivated mix of raised beds and beds	20
I have a green house	7
I have a poly tunnel	14
I have a shed	42
I have fruit trees and fruit bushes	31
I grow (cut) flowers	20
Others: trying out unusual crops	3

1.9 How satisfied are you with the site in general

Satisfied	38	81%
Neither Satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	18%
Fairly Dissatisfied	2	1%

1.10 What is going well with the site?

Positive/supportive comments	Less supportive comments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less derelict plots. 2. Seems to be well organised. 3. Friendly, helpful people, improving atmosphere, well organised. 4. Lots of excellent work being done, but remember this everyone's allotment. 5. Predominantly a friendly and welcoming environment with like minded people. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atmosphere too prescribed. 2. Was satisfied but unhappy about the destruction of wildlife habitats, necessary rubbish collection could have been done more sensitively. 3. Too much regulation. 4. Not the restful place it once was.

6. Starting to settle down after the recent upheavals.
7. Some nicely looked after plots.
8. I am very impressed with the site, it is very well maintained and feels very welcoming.
9. Shop is very useful and well run.
10. Secure and tidy.
11. In general the site is welcoming and people get on really well. It is really well maintained and relaxing to be there.
12. The site maintenance is the best it has ever been since I have had an allotment (5years).
13. Active committee.
14. It feels very safe, the locking gate has made a huge difference.
15. It is very tidy, I'm aware that a lot of people have put in a ton of work.
16. Well maintained. Friendly and helpful.
17. Satisfied with the way the allotment is trying to move forward. Annoyed at those trying to hold it back.
18. Less derelict plots.
19. Well organised and good plans for the future.
20. Well managed, safe and looks cared for. That is credit to those who have put in a lot of time and effort in addition to working on their own plots.
21. Well managed and maintained. Friendly atmosphere. Approachable committee. Safe environment.
22. It is nicely laid out, now satisfied. Don't like the bickering at meetings.
23. The work being done to encourage more nature I'm sure when it's more mature will benefit the whole allotment holders.
24. Shop and the choice of products.
25. Clearance of the perimeter

Analysis of positive comments: comments are from a broad range of members

Age range		Gender		Tenure		Employed: full time	4
Under 25years	0	Female	13	Less than 1 year	1	Employed: part time	3
26 to 35 years	1	Male	12	2-5 years	7	Not in employment	0
35 to 55 years	3	Prefer not to say	0	6-10 years	8	Unable to work	0
56 to 65 years	6			11-15 years	3	Retired	17
66 years plus	14			16-20 years	4	Student	0
				More than 21years	2	Other	1

Analysis of negative comments; comments arise from a narrow group.

Age range		Gender		Tenure		Employed: full time	
Under 25years		Female	2	Less than 1 year		Employed: part time	
26 to 35 years		Male		2-5 years	1	Not in employment	1
35 to 55 years		Prefer not to say	1	6-10 years	2	Unable to work	
56 to 65 years				11-15 years		Retired	2
66 years plus	3			16-20 years		Student	
				More than 21years		Other	

1.11 How often do you visit your plot during the growing season?

1.11 How long would you stay?

Daily	2	Less than an hour	0
Several times a week	32	1-2 hours	34
At least once a week	13	2-3 hours	20
A couple of times a month	2	More than 3hours	5

Section 2: Establish the interests and expectations of members

2.1 What size of allotment have you or would like?

I have a full size plot	12
I have a half size plot	31

I have a quarter size plot	
I began with a half/quarter plot, I would like to have a full plot.	1
I have a full plot, but I would like to reduce to half plot.	
I would like to share a plot or be part of a community plot	
Other:	5

2.2 What are your interests, tick as many as apply.

I would like to be part of a community	13
I would like to spend time every day, for a bit of peace and enjoyment	19
I would like to share an allotment with a friend or/and family members	9
I would like to help with the shop	7
I would like to help with the management of the Society	6
I would like to help with the maintenance.	7
An allotment helps me to learn new skills and to grow produce.	26
I plan to/ I do collect rain water in water butts	37
I would like to build/buy a compost bin	3
I would like a shed	0
I would like space for a greenhouse or poly-tunnel	3
I would like to plant some fruit trees/bushes.	6
I would like to build raised beds	6

2.3 Have you any other interests or plans, if so, please describe these.

Area for grandchildren

On site loos

Communal herb garden

Plant/seed/seeding exchange

Attracting wildlife and insects

Getting an IBC

less so

to do gardening and mind my own business (expressed by two people)

2.4 Newsletter

2.5 Website

I find the Newsletter informative	31		I regularly look at the website	4
I find the Newsletter useful	11		I occasionally look at the website	28
I do not read the Newsletter	7		I rarely look at the website	8
			I have never looked at the website	9

2.6 What facilities do you think are important for an allotment? Please choose five, ranking the most important 1, the next 2 and so on.

Composite scoring 1st=5,2nd=4 etc, to give a ranking

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Composite score	Rank
Compost loos	8	1	1	1	1	50	5
A 'clubhouse'.				2		4	
On site shop	10	6	6	2	3	99	2
Improved security fencing	3		3	1	1	27	8
Help to conserve water, eg more IBCs.	4	5	2	3	1	54) - 108	6
Access to piped water.	5	3	4	1		54)	3
Good access to plots by defined paths	3	2	1	4	6	44)	7
A road around the site	1		1		1	9)- 66	Access issues
Clear boundaries between plots			1	4	2	13)	
Composting facility for the site		2	1	5	2	23	10
Communal manure for sale	3	15	4	9	2	107	1
Communal wood chippings for sale.	1	3	11	2		54	4
A community vegetable plot.				1	1	10	Community beds
A community flower garden.					1		
A community orchard/fruit bushes.		1		1			
Improved car parking.		1	3	1	1	16	
Becoming involved in community projects.		1			1	5	
A Wildlife area.	1		4	1	6	25	9
A designated space for picnic tables on the site				1	3	22	Social spaces
Sit and chat benches.	1	1	1	1	3		
Other ideas:							
Void...no ranking 2 partial ranking 5							

- We have addressed Shop, manure and chippings.
- The water issue is a high priority.
- These practical issues.
- Issue of 'compost' loos is interesting.
- Access is raised an important concern.
- The notion of social -community spaces and wildlife areas together are often given a lower preference but raised. But combined would rank much higher.

2.7 Would you be interested in attending future meetings looking at how best to develop allotments.

Yes	/ No/	Possibly	No response
12	8	23	6

2.8 Would you like to provide help with site maintenance/projects or with the management of the allotments

Yes	/ No/	Possibly	No response
6	15	22	6

Section 3: In conclusion. Are there any other project ideas or issues that you would like to see addressed?

1. The site managed without the use of pesticides or weedkiller (other wildlife measures).The whole site is wildlife friendly.
2. Social gatherings calendar x2 (MacMillan, summer picnic)
3. Sees/seedling/plant exchange. X2
4. Tool exchange
5. annual skips three a year, X2.
6. Publicity, projects.
7. Consultations-discussions re plans.
8. Wildlife boundaries.
9. Managed bonfires x2
10. Access to mowers.
11. Wood chip delivered on the weekend.