

Southsea Green Plot meeting 1/9/18

Attendees: Carla, Sue, Jenni, Peta, Gra, Joanne, Rita, Nick, Charlene, Sarah, Helen F, Jean

New volunteers: Antonio, Helen B, Irene Gilpin

Apologies: Vik, Clare S, Irene S

Update on transition:

Southsea Greenhouse Company will become dormant at the end of the year after the Skillsshops have all been completed, but will still exist as an entity until June 2019, by which time, the management of the garden needs to have been handed over. The current management team are currently in talks with Gail Baird of the Food Partnership and John Pounds Centre to take over the management, for them to have a hands-off management role, to include e.g. monthly lease signing and relationship with council, and health and safety concerns e.g. the recent rat infestation.

Clarification provided by Sue Stokes following meeting:

Southsea Green will not cease to exist, Southsea Greenhouse Community Co-operative will, at the end of the financial year (Dec 2018) and following reporting to FCA in June 2019, the SG bank account will be closed, and responsibility for the garden lease will pass onto JPC &/or an alternative group to satisfy PCC requirements for garden safety and upholding the lease, including Public Liability insurance which costs approx £200 per annum. The work that Southsea Green might choose to do will continue as part of a partnership with other local groups in the area s/a The Canoe Lake group and Friends of Cumberland House, to safeguard and promote the natural life across the whole park.

An alternative possibility would be for existing members of Southsea green to take over the management. Meeting to be set up to discuss what activities and roles are involved in the management group. **Action Carla to arrange and invite Nick and Helen.** And if anyone else wishes to be involved please contact Carla. **Action all volunteers/plot holders**

All current activities of Southsea green and of the management committee to be documented by Sue working together with Jenni and Helen. **Action Helen to arrange meeting.**

Other activities in addition to gardening can be continued in future, e.g. the Skillsshops. Anyone wishing to be involved in these to contact Carla or Peta. **Action: all volunteers/plot holders**

NB. Once Southsea green closes as an entity there will be no regular source of funds. The new organisation may wish to consider setting up fund raising activities for basic garden supplies and maintenance etc.

Goff's Monthly Gardening Tips:

Clear the beds of any plants that have finished cropping.

It's now too late to plant seeds, but there is still time to plant sprouts, kale and purple sprouting broccoli plants.

Garlic, onions, and broad beans may be planted in one month's time.

Salad can be planted in the polytunnels either at the plot or at the Sorrell Centre.

This is a good time to cover the beds with compost.

Compost Bins to be checked for any that contain compost that's ready to be used, in addition to the 2-red topped bins, **Action Nick and Goff.**

Contact Sorrell Centre to advise them of our plans to return to using their polytunnel over the winter. **Action Helen**

Sue reminded us that as a community garden we have stated that any excess crops will be shared between the plot holders or donated to foodcycle at the John Pounds Centre. Clare Seek regularly goes to foodcycle, contact Clare on FB to offer any food donations. **Action Clare and all plot holders**

Concern over crops disappearing:

Thought that this may possibly be due to squirrels. Suggestion that everyone labels their plots to make it clear which are communal and which belong to individuals. Unfortunately this won't help with squirrels but may make it clearer to visitors! **Action All plot holders**

Plot allocation:

All plot holders except Nicky have confirmed whether or not they wish to keep with their plots. **Action Sue (or Carla?)** to contact Nicky to find out whether she wishes to keep her plot.

Beds were given up by Clare B, i.e. The bed shared with Sue, by Tracey and the green party, and by Viola. Also the Southsea Greenhouse plots will reduce from 2 to 1. NB Viola confirmed after the meeting that she wishes to keep her bed.

We have 3 new plot holders/volunteers, Antonio will adopt the half plot next to the wall, Irene will adopt Clare and Sue's old plot, Nick and Charlene will move to the Green Party's old plot leaving their previous plot next to the pond vacant, and Helen B will help with the communal fruit and veg plot. All other plot holders will remain as before.

All new plots have been labelled with new plot holder names.

Note; All plot holders, new and existing are required to use the online form <https://www.southseagreen.uk/volunteering.html> to qualify for plots. Also any volunteers who wish to access the garden with the code for the garden gate need to use the form, so that the site is secure and responsibly managed. Can all plot holders please make sure they have filled in the form by 10th September, and if for any reason this isn't possible, please inform Carla. **ACTION; ALL**

Care of communal plots/areas:

Herb plot needs to be weeded, when the tomatoes have finished cropping. **Action Helen to ask Sherry**

Communal fruit and veg plot. **Action Goff, Nick, Helen to agree on what will be planted**

Pond to be cleared. **Action Antonio.**

Anyone who would like to help with any of these tasks to contact the owner. **Action all volunteers/plot holders**

Raspberry Plot to be tidied up: 'How to' guide needed. Volunteer needed to research and confirm with Goff. **Action all volunteers/plot holders**