



## ***News in Brief July 2012***

### **Allotment Site Maintenance:-**

Since May of this year we have all experienced the effects of the torrential rains in one form or another, this has resulted in many of our plot holders seeing their cultivating efforts go to waste as the vegetables and plants grew to tremendous heights, I speak from experience as some of the plants in my garden that are usually 3' tall are this year 6' feet high. The weeds have had a field day too and we appreciate all those of you who have worked tirelessly to maintain your plots in good condition throughout this very unusual weather.

Many of you will have noticed that the Town Council maintenance team have been out in all weathers battling to keep the grass and weeds under control and all thanks has to be given to Darren and his team for the sterling job that they do.

Since May of this year the Town Council has attended to 12 urgent matters such as rats, broken branches, rotting trees etc across our 7 sites as well as continuing to provide a maintenance service and we are proud of our response times.

The Town Council has carried out site surveys. The reasons for these are two fold, to identify areas in need of maintenance and to assist, where necessary, plot holders who are experiencing difficulties with cultivating their plots this season. We do expect the plots to be fully cultivated and kept in a good condition. For your safety and security, we are asking all our representatives who visit our allotment sites to wear ID badges; you will be entitled to ask to see our badges.

Some of you will have new neighbours too and we are delighted to welcome them into the special community of allotment holders, it has been quite a battle for some to get started due to the weather.

### **Bonfires:-**

It has been reported that on a number of occasions bonfires are being lit and either left unattended or are causing a nuisance for our neighbouring residents. Only in exceptional circumstances are bonfires permitted on site, should it be absolutely necessary for you to light a bonfire please attend to your bonfires in a responsible way bearing in mind your close neighbours, DO NOT in any circumstance leave bonfires unattended or leave smouldering overnight.

### **Incident Reporting**

Two of our sites experienced the full force of vandalism/theft of items from sheds. The Town Council was quick to respond to a call reported by an allotment holder by contacting the local police and reporting the incident and obtaining an incident number for future reference. The police have asked that we encourage all our plot holders who may have been a victim of these incidents to contact them by telephoning 101 and reporting their own experience, the more information they receive the better in combatting crime.

### **Andover Town Council continues to serve the community:-**

Here at the Town Council we have been working hard to serve the people of Andover and we are delighted to announce that we are working closely with local businesses to provide work experience for some of our members in our community. We are also establishing relationships with local forums to facilitate things like 'garden share'.

### **Thanks**

A special thanks has to go to all our Volunteers who are always willing to step in and support us in many different ways. If you would like to become a volunteer at the Andover Town Council please get in contact on 01264 335592 during public opening hours.

Thanks also has to be given to our hard working Site Wardens who support us tirelessly throughout the year.