

11th February 2015 - Rent Rise Cancelled



Tomorrow the City of Edinburgh Council will debate its Budget Proposals. However, we already know that the "Capital Coalition" has approved a position that means the proposed rent rises for allotments has been cancelled. They are:

"Not increasing allotment charges in line with the proposals which were put out to consultation, however there will be talks with allotment holders and FEDAGA over the coming months to discuss ways of increasing income and reducing costs across the Council's estate. The Council will begin these negotiations from 31st March 2015."

This removes a threat that has hung over the city's allotment holders since last October. Quite a few were questioning how they could continue to keep a plot going if the proposals were enacted.

The Allotment Strategy Steering Group will meet again on 4th March and future rent levels will be on the agenda. FEDAGA's position is that the 2009 Agreement allowed a rent rise to 2014 to make the service self sustaining, followed by a 5 year period when the 2014 rent is held steady. This Agreement should stand. The Council's position is that the Agreement is more of an aspiration than an impediment to further rent rises, which may be inevitable.

FEDAGA representatives will endeavour to arrive at the fairest result for members. However, we must be realistic and not expect the pressure for increased revenue to be generated from the allotment service to go away.

FEDAGA will seek to establish a definitive breakdown of the full costs of running the allotment service to ensure that any future proposals are based on reality and not on the fantasy figures that the Council came up with last year.

Other news, in brief...



Police have arrested a youth who was found by a blazing shed at Saughton Mains two weeks ago. A number of others have been implicated with the series of vandal attacks on this site recently. The youth has been referred to the Children's Panel. Allotment holders are considering seeking redress for damage of around £2000 through the Small Claims Court.

A reminder that the FEDAGA Shop is open on Sundays from 2 to 3.30pm for sale of seed potatoes and onion sets (at the same unbeatable prices as advertised last autumn) on 22nd February, 1st March and subsequent Sundays. The shop is at the West Gate (East Fettes Avenue) to Inverleith allotments. You are urged to come on the first two dates, if possible. Subsequently, the shop will be operated by Inverleith volunteers.

Plotholders are arriving on site at the new allotments at Northfield Drive. The green light has been given to a further new site at the bowling green in Victoria Park. We are told this will be operational by April. Due to technical problems we are currently unable to update the FEDAGA website. Fingers crossed, normal service will be resumed soon.

Tiphereth Community Compost

Colinton Community Compost - reduced rates for allotments. More information [here](#).

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