

Wilberfoss Allotments Association
Report to Parish Council May 2016

Now in its 9th year of existence, the Allotments Association continues to thrive. Once again we have full occupation of the 21 plots, many of which are now divided into half plots and, in one case, 2 quarter plots in order to accommodate a growing number of allotmenters. In total there are currently 37 tenants with a further 6 names on the waiting list.

The one acre site at the far end of a field beyond Willow Park Road has developed considerably over the past 8 years. Many plots now have well established fruit trees and soft fruit bushes and around half the plots have either a shed or a greenhouse. Two members also keep chickens.

The newly planted hedge along the perimeter facing the village is growing well, despite being waterlogged for much of the past winter! In time the hedge, which was funded by a grant from the Parish Council's Allotments Fund, will provide a shelter break for the allotments and screen the site from the village. Our next project will be to renew the posts which support the perimeter fence along the same southern edge of the site.

The access track at the back of Fieldhead became very badly rutted during the winter due to heavy rain and damage caused by contractors' vehicles. We are hoping in the near future to get hold of a quantity of road planings to repair the track.

At the end of next year, we will have completed our first 10 years on the site and the lease will be due for renewal. We have had some initial discussion with our landlord Grant Burton who is keen to continue the arrangement. It will be necessary however to negotiate a new lease with the Parish Council since we understand that the allotment field is now owned by Grant's sister in law. Grant has said that he will instruct the family solicitor to draw up a new agreement and we shall look forward to extending our stay on the site for a further 10 years.

Alan Dibb

Chairman, Wilberfoss Allotments Association