

Allotments Federation 9/1/07

The Deputy Chief Executive of the City Council has stated that the Council wants to be "PROGRESSIVE" in relation to allotments. (Please see over.)

Allotments currently have high public interest and the future looks positive. The Federation has many allies and much potential support.

We need to set the agenda for change to meet modern needs.

AGENDA ITEMS for Advisory Committee

1. LETTINGS

We would like the Council to make a policy commitment that wherever and whenever possible, lettings should be organised on a local basis by federated groups.

2. CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS

Tenants need clear communication and consistent procedures.

3. FORUM

Set up a forum to represent all stakeholders in allotments

e.g. co-opt and second representatives of relevant council departments
VCF sector / Planning / Tourism / Health / Care / Education

4. CONFERENCE

Organise a conference to engage support of the community wider (inclusive)

5. REVIEW and DEVELOP SUCCESSFUL MODELS

Based on existing examples of good practice

6. LETTING TO GROUPS

Accept subletting to constituted groups within existing legislation (as has always happened with the authority's consent). Any License should be designed to promote and facilitate the development of groups.

7. NEW TENANCY.

Review other cities' provision and compile Sheffield's version.
Rewrite tenancy as practical and comprehensible document

8. SHARING

Accept individuals' choices rather than sub-dividing and imposing co-tenants.

I think we'd be justified in requesting double the percentage of the Council tax rate for allotments, allocated to local societies, but this may be too revolutionary (...but it could happen).

I met with John Mothersole, 11am 1st December 2006, and presented him with the following summary of events arising since the destruction of the orchard allotment. He accepted all these points without question and offered an immediate apology. He excused these events by stating that the council wants a "culture change" in the department, but this is a slow process and old habits sometimes recur.

Evidence of Maladministration submitted to your office 31st August 2006, indicative of long-standing and ongoing procedural crisis and entrenched malpractice in the administration of Sheffield's Allotments

- | Generating rather than resolving conflict
- | Intimidation as response to communication
- | Verbal and physical threats
- | Cover up minor with major infringement

- | Legal processes ignored
- | Practice contradicts policy
- | Arbitrary and inconsistent decisions
- | Break rules and regulations ("discretion"?)
- | Line manager supports without question
- | No Appeals / Complaints procedure
- | Avoiding and evading accountability
- | Accusation and conviction without informing or providing evidence
- | Retrospective accusations and convictions

- | Failure to investigate complaints
- | Abuse of Confidentiality
- | Knowingly putting tenants into adversarial relationship / at risk
- | Misleading co-workers / line-managers
- | Extraordinary measures and waste of resources

- | Ignores and contradicts views of Federation
- | Undermine democratic process of Federation
- | Lobbies and instructs tenants to prevent set up of federated group
- | Suppression and exclusion of Community Sector
- | Ongoing antipathy to Community groups (negative expectations)

- | Tenancy / Licence = Preventing progress / refusal to progress
- | Ignored and excluded stakeholders and contributors

- | Contempt for Scrutiny Panel
- | Exclude democratic representatives from Scrutiny process
- | Misuse of Police time and resources
- | Misleading and deceiving executive manager
- | Insubordination – refusal to obey written orders from superior