



Alton Allotment Association  
19 Kings Road  
ALTON  
GU34 1PZ

7th September 2015

Cllr. Matthew Bayliss  
Chairman – Open Spaces Committee  
Alton Town Council  
Town Hall  
Market Square  
ALTON  
GU34 1HD

Dear Matthew

**Re: Open Spaces Committee Meeting – 9th September 2015**

Thank you for your phone call yesterday evening, when we had the opportunity to discuss the proposed remedial work on the Hawthorns Allotment Site car park, and the development of the partnership between the Council and our Association.

We note from the minutes of the previous Open Spaces Committee meeting, held on 15th July 2015, that Councillors Mrs Pam Jones and Mrs Sharon Cullen agreed to represent the Council on the Allotment Advisory Sub Committee. Our Association welcomes the establishment of this essential forum, where our respective members and officers of the Council can address issues of mutual concern. May we suggest that the initial meeting take place next month.

Your committee will also be made aware that our Association will be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting, on Wednesday 7th October, at the Finnimore Pavilion. The objective of this meeting will be to gain the approval of our members, to match the date when our Association membership fees fall due, to the date when the Council collects their annual rents. This is an essential step towards re-establishing the practice also referred to in the report from your Admin Officer, which will be presented to your Committee meeting this Wednesday. The report highlights the success of a trial that took place in 2013, when the Council rents and Association fees were collected by the Council, and the fees then forwarded to our Association. If our membership approves our proposal, we would request that your Committee give consideration to authorizing your officers to collect the fees as well as the plot rents, beginning in early 2016.

With the formation of the Advisory Sub committee, and the harmonization of collection dates and joint collection of rents & fees, it would be to our common advantage if details of ploholders and our members were shared. To facilitate this process, we would further propose that the form used to apply for an allotment be revised to enable all those wishing to become a ploholder, to become a member of our Association, and granting permission for any contact information to be shared.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely

John Pritchard  
Chairman