

Hillside Gardens Allotment Group Report 6/12/2017

It has been an active and successful growing year although several people had to give up their plots because of work commitments or health problems. We successfully recruited **new growers** by offering plots in the newsletter and being available at the sports day.

It was a disappointment that the Council turned down the proposal from Andy of Rootcraft to use part of the site to start a herb growing business. Our keen volunteers have created new beds. Daniel Lacek worked particularly hard. Twelve plots are let currently at £20 a plot. Eleven people have said they wish to continue next year. There are two people on the waiting list. We aim to finalise the list by the end of February.

The Council were helpful though in delivering us a load of compost. They also cleared a lot of the small trees from the site freeing more ground and giving us more light. It was a treat for some children to see Meetal Patel tending the **beehives**. One is no longer active but the other is thriving. He aims to be selling honey in the summer for £7 a jar. (*Local honey offers protection against local viruses.*) We had some keys made for the shed.

- **Next year**

We would like to make more beds by using the large staging boxes Michel Thill got for us.

- We will need to get some more compost. It will take time for our new compost boxes to produce enough of our own. ✓
- There is still some rubbish and weeds to clear. ✓
- We will probably need to buy a replacement wheelbarrow. ✓
- I will discuss with the group having a Whats App or other instant communication so growers can tell each other they will be at their plots at short notice.

Martin Goffe