

NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES

(a) Allotment Site

1. Allotment plots have been allocated to residents on the waiting list. They have been requested to complete and sign the tenancy agreement, provide proof of address and requested to pay a 6-months tenancy and a security deposit (50% annual cost).

Allotment Plot Size	6-Month Tenancy Cost	Security Deposit	Annual Cost
75m	£55.00	£55.00	£110.00
70m	£50.00	£50.00	£100.00

2. The 6-month tenancy starts from 1 April 2024 to 31 September 2024. From 1 October 2024, the allotment cost will change to an annual charge. 1 October to 31 Septe will be considered an allotment year.
3. If allotment holders are not able to access their allotment plot by 1 April 2024, then a reduced annual cost will be charged in the 2024/2025. Or a refund will apply, if an allotment holder decides to leave at the end of 6-month tenancy period.
4. To date, 19 residents have completed and submitted the required paperwork and paid for their security deposit and 6-month tenancy. Tenants were given 28 days to submit paperwork and pay. The back account stands at £2,033.87 (including interest).
5. We have received some requests for payments to me made monthly by Direct Debit. This would add to the administrative time taken to check and record payments, but checking payments on a quarterly basis may not be so onerous. The Council may want to consider allowing quarterly direct debits for those who may be receiving universal credit, or, to avoid any type of means testing, for those who say they would find it difficult to pay the yearly cost in one go. Irrespective, tenants would still be required to sign a new tenancy agreement for each allotment year.
6. Residents are not able to access the allotment site until the grass has been established. From the photograph (taken by Cllr Julian Thomas), it seems that the entrance from Whaddon Road is complete, the water taps have been installed and the car park and gravel vehicles access road are in a near complete state.



7. Once the grass is established and the plots have been marked out, residents will be invited to an open day so that they can view the site and their allocated allotment plot. The contractor has still to confirm dates when this can take place.

(b) Community Centre (The Hive)

Paul Van Geet (Milton Keynes City Council) will be at the meeting to provide an update.

(c) Temporary Shop

1. Planning permission for the installation of a rapid retail unit (temporary shop) has now been granted. The shop will be located on Brahaman Way, opposite the Medical Centre.
2. L&Q are in the process of selecting a retailer to manage the shop, for up to 3 years, or at least until a retailer has been installed in the proposed retail unit on the High Street.