

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**Planning & Environment Committee****Allotments****1. Blagrove**

- 1.1 West Swindon Parish Council has a legal duty if there is a demand for allotments in its area, under Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, to provide a sufficient number of allotments and to let them to persons residing in its area who want them.
- 1.2 West Swindon has few land resources available for the development of allotments so there are limited options for expansion. The Allotment Working Group investigated a number of sites but has not had any confirmed as suitable by Swindon Borough Council. The waiting list has increased in recent weeks to a total of 30. Where possible, residents are encouraged to consider applying to sites in other parishes such as Central Swindon North, Haydon Wick and Purton.
- 1.3 There are currently two vacancies at Blagrove however the recent lockdown has restricted progress in re-letting.
- 1.4 Allotment holders have contacted the Parish Council to complain about a persistent pooling of water at the entrance gates to the site. Initial investigations have not been able to locate the source. It is thought that it may be from the water supply pipe to the site. Deeper excavation is required but is on hold until there are more staff resources available.
- 1.5 Ordinarily, the Parish Council staff would be conducting site inspections to ensure that all plots are in a state of active cultivation. These inspections have been suspended in recognition that plot holders may be experiencing additional challenges including illness, caring responsibilities, shielding or work or travel restrictions. Staff will make contact with those plot holders on sites that look poorly tended to check that there is still interest in retaining the plot.

Paula Harrison
Parish Manager