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| Co-Chair | Phil Baker | St Clements & District | Officer - Disputes | Roy Leach | Kestrel Crescent |
| Co-Chair | Nick Jackson | Osney, St Thomas & New Botley | Officer - Website | Jane Millar | East Ward |
| Minutes Secretary | Jenny Wright | Barton Fields | Officer | Leonard Bowora | Court Place Farm |
| Treasurer | John Lardner | Headington Eden Drive | Officer | Julia Brocklesby | Thompson Terrace |

2021 Summer Newsletter

The Committee sends our best wishes to all of our members and hope that the recent upturn in the weather has meant that everyone is starting to catch up from what were both the coldest April and wettest May on record!

A reminder that ODFAA hold a Pro License for [Zoom](#) that allows meetings to run longer than the (free version) 40 min meeting limit. We have used this to allow several affiliated Association to hold their AGMs and would like to offer this facility to any of you wanting to do the same. If you are interested then please contact [Nick Jackson](#) for more details.



Update on new Leases and Rules:

We are still waiting to hear back from our counterparts at Oxford City Council, who in turn are waiting to hear back from their legal team. OCC have suggested two possible dates for an Allotments Liaison Meeting (ALM) – these are **Weds 30th June** and **Weds 7th July**. This ALM would most likely be held over Zoom as there is some reluctance on the part of some to mixing indoors even if the Government goes ahead and eases restrictions on the 21st. Both dates are subject to confirmation as OCC will need to have received their legal advice in time, but we ask you to keep both dates free at this stage if possible.



There has been a reorganisation of OC councillors’ responsibilities and Cllr Lubna Arshad has taken over responsibility for allotments from Cllr Louise Upton. We hope that both councillors will be able to attend the ALM to ensure a good handover.

We are still waiting for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to respond as to whether the draft Rules we sent in are suitable to submit for registration.

We would like to reinforce the ODFAA position as negotiator with OCC on your behalf, and to clarify that **we can only report and respond to Association Committees** – unfortunately we do not have the resources to respond to queries from lots of individual members.

Reassurance: We understand that many of you will have concerns as we approach the September date at which most of our leases expire. To reiterate – when we first started negotiating with OCC (back in the mists of time!) they confirmed that in the unlikely situation of leases not being fully agreed by their expiry date (September 2021!) then **the old leases/licence would continue**.

Urban Forest Strategy Group

Through our participation in the Green & Blue Spaces Network meetings, your Co-Chair Phil Baker has joined the Oxford City -Urban Forest Strategy Group on behalf of ODFAA. The Strategy is still in draft form and remains confidential for the time being, but a full version will be put out for consultation in a few weeks’ time.



The 'Urban Forest' referred to includes all trees, hedgerows and woody shrubs on both private and public land within the City boundaries, and the main aim of the strategy is to conserve, enhance and increase the numbers and volume of all appropriate species as a positive contribution to the natural and built environment of the City. Allotments and orchards are acknowledged as key elements of such a strategy. Terms of reference for the Group are being drawn up at the moment and we will update with further details as they emerge.

Other news:

Covid-19: The National Allotment Society updated their Covid-19 [advice and information](#) on 17th May. They are working to support plot-holders and associations so that they can continue to work their plots and manage sites in a safe and secure manner during the pandemic.

As we are no longer under lockdown OCC have not repeated their request last summer regarding **restrictions on bonfires** but many people are still working from home with windows open so restraint on bonfires is advised.

OCC Contact Details: Oxford City Council is still reviewing the content of its webpages, and it has been identified that there are several contacts attached to associations that have now become out of date.

To ensure continuity and data protection for members, OCC is asking that each Allotment Association's committee sets up a **generic email address** (e.g. secretary@westoxfordallotments.org) that can be the first point of contact for members of the public, and that OCC can publish on their webpages. OCC is also asking that you review your individual site's webpage and liaise with your committee to ensure all information is current. Please contact [Caroline Chanides](#) at OCC (who has taken over responsibility for allotment from Michael Woods) with your amended details.

