

ODFAA Annual Report 2022.

Schedule of Exec/OCC, ALM and AGM meetings re-established.

March – 1 st week	ODFAA Committee OCC/ODFAA Exec
March - last week	ALM ODFAA AGM
(May 1 st	New Insurance Year begins)
July - last week	ODFAA Committee OCC/ODFAA Exec
September – 3 rd week	ALM
December – 1 st week	ODFAA Committee OCC/ODFAA Exec

2024.

January – last week	ALM
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Continues as above.

Denny Gardens

This sorry tale got worse last year with the illegal occupation by travelers. A case study of all that can go wrong when the Council drops the ball. We heard first hand the ire and cynicism of one Denny Gardens resident, which suggests getting engagement and uptake of plots in the future may be a much harder task. We have insisted that an apology from the Council should be included in any/all new promotional material. After 5 years of trying, a fixed water point was installed in 2022, and OCC have agreed to once more clear and plough the ground ready for marking up.

The situation at Denny is now tied in with the on-going problems at Minchery Farm West due to the proposal to form a joint committee for both sites in future.

Minchery Farm West

After a protracted period of disputes between committee and two members and a failed legal action, the committee resigned and management of the site reverted to OCC in MMM 2022. Nothing further was done until ODS required site access in Feb 2023 to carry out 'urgent tree work'. The first contact from OCC since committee closure led to a joint OCC/ODFAA site visit on Feb ???. This provided an occasion for a useful discussion but also revealed a catalogue of remedial work needed at the site. There are further discussions at OCC on how to resolve the disputes and ODFAA will become involved with reinstating a committee (hopefully, joint with Denny Gardens) once this has happened.

Bird Flu

ODFAA contacted OCC at the beginning of the Bird Flu outbreak and, in the absence of any specific instruction from the Council, circulated the main Government guidance. ODFAA is not aware of any subsequent problems or loss of livestock on allotments.

FCA Approval of Coop Rules

We were delighted when, after one revision, the FCA gave approval for us to use the re-drafted Coop Rules. We are restricted to use with Associations in Oxford, but this means those Associations wishing to convert to Cooperative Societies have an improved set of Rules to apply with, sponsored by ODFAA, and at a much reduced cost than using the NAS originals.

ODFAA and OCC continue to recommend that all Associations convert to an incorporated legal entity; most often a Cooperative Society or small Limited Company.

Negotiations on Lease & Site Rules

We ended 2022 with three main issues unresolved – not accepting the liability of Associations for replacing fencing and gates; not accepting ODS as a monopoly supplier of tree services outside the triennial inspection/maintenance programme; arguing for the continuation of Hazel growing/coppicing as a 'fruiting' tree and the cutting back of Willows to remove obstruction.

With the fourth (third temporary) 'link' person at OCC now in place, we have begun the year with two helpful meetings and some definite change in the level of understanding and possible accommodation. A full update will be provided at the March ALM.

Insurance.

Public Liability Insurance continues to be available to all Associations in Membership of ODFAA.

Not Known at present whether there will be any increase in premiums for 2023/4.

Membership of ODFAA.

The annual fee for Membership remains at the 2022 level - £50

Annual Allotments Competition.

The impact of Covid and the retirement of our main organizer/judge has dealt a blow to this longstanding tradition. ODFAA would like to gather opinions on reviving the competition in 2024 and any expressions of interest in helping to realise its return. It would almost certainly be a reduced form, if at all, but even that requires considerable inputs of time and energy and not something ODFAA can do on its own.

ALM talks and presentations

With a revised schedule of mainly Zoom meetings for 2023/24, are there any burning topics or issues that Members would like to see covered by some external/expert input? Any suggestions to Phil, Nick or Jon please.