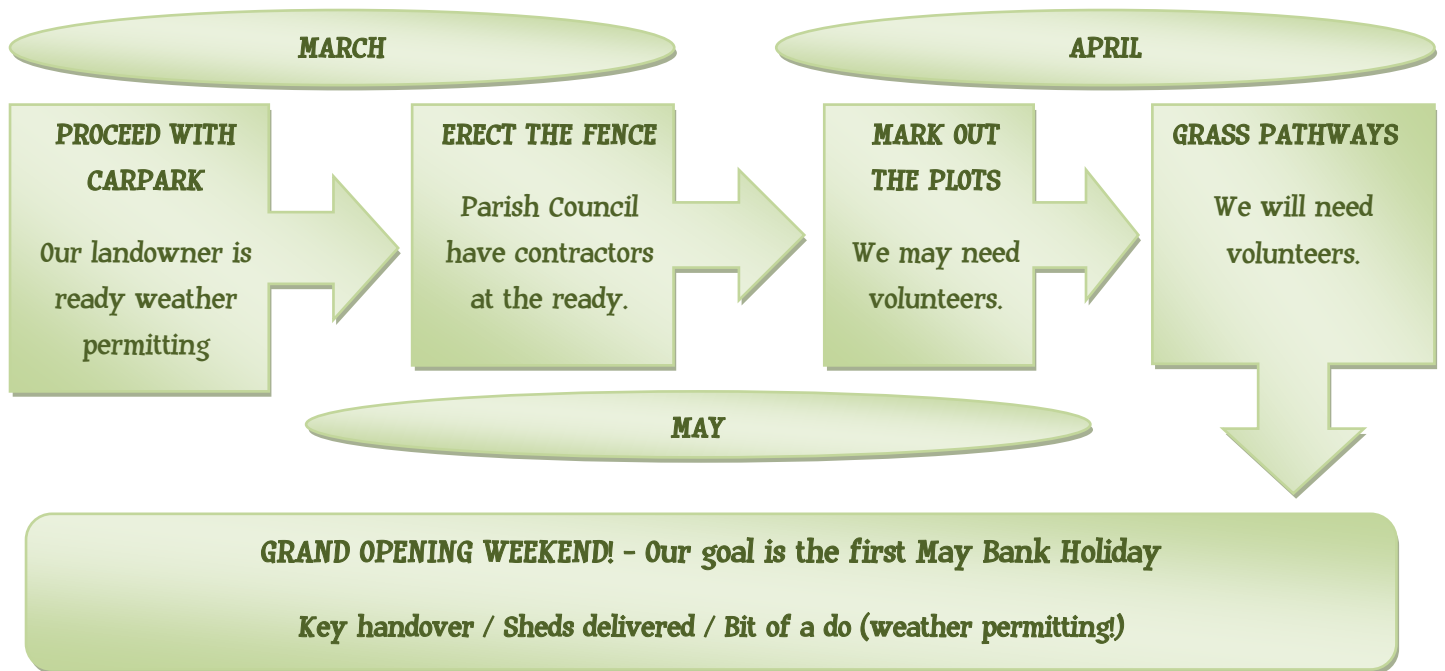




**Earls Colne
Allotment Association
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2010**

Good news! We have at long last heard today from Earls Colne Parish Council that planning permission has been granted by Braintree District Council. This means subject to the weather we can now get going! So we thought we would let you know what the plan of action is:



THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON SINCE THE GENERAL MEETING

- * Designing a logo. Design to be decided on.
- * Working on membership cards.
- * The committee have been working hard to obtain discounts for members at local suppliers such as Fork 'andles and Olivers – we will send further information about this.
- * Rules for the association have been drawn up and will be issued with your payment receipt and signed allotment agreements.
- * Getting our own page on the Parish Council Website.
- * Putting together a talk – “A Beginners Guide to Your Allotment”. Does anybody have any expertise that they can share?
- * We have raised with the Parish Council the issue of a rebate for some of this year's rent given that we have not been able to use the site yet. We will keep you posted on this.
- * We have secured supplies of well rotted horse manure for which we have to pay a donation to charity.

THINGS WE ARE HOPING TO ESTABLISH IN THE FIRST YEAR

- * Plant up the communal woodland area with native trees and bulbs.
- * Membership Newsletter – we hope to do a newsletter regularly.
- * Arrange some social events and competitions.
- * Set up regular informal meeting date (perhaps monthly or every other month) - *to catch up with each other, share ideas and seasonal tips?* Let us know if you'd been keen to attend, and we'll secure a suitable venue in the village?
- * Put up an on-site notice / message board.
- * Put in benches / tables in the communal woodland area.

THINGS WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH

Can you help with any of the jobs below? Get in touch with the committee if you can.

- * Are you interested in helping with marking out plots or grassing the site?
- * Do you have woodwork skills and fancy making benches or tables for the woodland area?
- * Can you or do you know anyone who may like to donate fruit trees / native trees / bulbs – snowdrops, bluebells, daffodils etc for the woodland area?
- * Beehives – does anyone experience of bee-keeping?
- * Check that your home insurance covers you for loss and injury. i.e. if your tools were stolen out of your shed – would your insurance policy cover you?
- * If you have any ideas for the Allotment Association then please let us know – ideas for the site, events ideas – fund raising events. All suggestions welcome.
- * Does anybody fancy keeping a video diary of them setting up their allotment? Please get in contact.
- * If you have an email address that you haven't shared with us please can we have it – it will make communication with everyone a lot easier.
- * We still have some spare plots. Do you know anyone in the village who might like a plot?

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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