**Coronavirus**(The Co-chairs, Nick van Hear and Ian Matten)

We hope that everyone is bearing up under the current difficult conditions.

At the time of writing (24.3.2020), the allotment site is still open. According to a report of a government spokesman this morning, allotments are included as places for daily exercise. We are seeking official clarification of this. Common sense tells us that, as long as we take sensible precautions, allotments should stay open not only for exercise but for producing food.  As we all know, the allotments are a good place for getting out of doors, for conversation at safe distance, and for our general well-being.

It is surely important that food is locally picked and grown at a time when dependence on supermarkets is growing.  For those who are going to pick and plant, please be careful to keep a distance of at least two metres from everyone else, whether neighbours or those on the paths and at the entrance gate

Coronavirus can apparently survive on metal surfaces.  ***Use gloves when opening and closing the gate.***  Wipe with anti-bacterial cloth if you can.  And of course, follow the guidance on hand washing. Ideally wash your hands after entering the allotments and certainly when returning home.  But please don’t wash in the water butts next to the taps. Either use your own water or, when the taps go on again, collect water from them in a separate bucket. We should also be careful of infection from taps.

If we follow current guidelines, there is a strong case to keep the site open.

We have cancelled the working party for Sunday 29th March.  Other meetings and working parties are under review given current conditions, but the list of those scheduled is included below.

We will do our best to update you on the latest developments as we learn them.