

Special General Meeting - additional information

General

The committee have been looking into the possibility of providing a toilet at the apiary for over a year. We feel that having a toilet on site is necessary both for the use of members and increasingly as we aim (in accordance with our charitable status) to use the site for educational visits by local schools etc.

Systems available

We have no running water on site and access problems exclude any system that will require emptying.

Composting toilets.

A visit was made to Pitshanger Allotments in Ealing who have a composting toilet (supplied by Nat Sol <http://www.natsol.co.uk>). This impressed us but the composting system did have disadvantages in that it required regular use to keep bacteria active and also this system usually required urine to be disposed of by soaking into the ground. The London Borough of Harrow (from whom we hold the site on licence) would not permit any system, which could involve the possibility of discharge into the River Pinn. A quote from NatSol for a system suitable for Hatch End was in excess of £10,000.

Enviro - Loo

The next system we looked at was the Enviro Loo system supplied by Kazuba (<http://www.kazuba.eu/>). This is a dry self-contained system, which uses wind and sun to dry waste. . A representative from the company visited Hatch End and provided an estimate, which totals £6768. inclusive of installation (.The proposal we have put asks for authorisation to spend up to £7000 to allow for any unforeseen expenses). . The London Borough of Harrow has given their consent to the Enviro loo – which will have disability access. This is the system we are now hoping to install.

Finances.

We initially looked to fund the project with a grant. A considerable amount of time was spent in compiling grant applications and an initial application made to the Garfield Weston Foundation which seemed to be the most likely source of funding. Unfortunately our application was turned down. HBKA's finances are now such that we feel any additional grant applications may well fail on the basis that we can afford to self-fund the toilet.

At present the HBKA have funds of £ 10747 with an additional £1072 due from gift aid. We have no creditors. A sum not exceeding £100 is due to be paid to Middlesex Federation and BBKA in the autumn. Paying for the toilet would leave us short of funds if, for example, buildings at Hatch End were destroyed (it has proved difficult to obtain quotes for insurance of these buildings and any quotes obtained have been prohibitive). Although, if that situation were to arise, then we would probably be in a much stronger position to apply for a grant to rebuild.

We feel that if we spend this money we will stand a better chance of getting grant funding for further projects.