

The 1960s: a period of decline

In 1962 it was reported that there were 40 vacant plots.

In 1964 money had to be transferred from reserves because of loss of rental income.

In 1965 the AGM minutes record a loss of 70 members in three years.

The City Council's Consolidation and Improvement of Allotments report of 1968 noted that "the decline in allotment use is not peculiar to Cambridge: increasing use of the motor car, improvements in housing conditions and competition from other pastimes such as television have all contributed to a similar decline on a national scale".

Outcomes for the Rock Allotment Society

Consolidation

1966 **Holbrook Road** site was given up for the building of Homerton Nursery School.

1968 **Mowbray Road** site was given up for housing.

Baldock Way was kept, except for the West site on which four detached houses were to be built.

Glebe Road site, described as having the most fertile soil, was kept and used for relocation of displaced plotholders.

Perne Road site was kept

Improvements

The City Council Agreed to

- build a central office/store at Baldock Way
- provide water tanks on all sites
- provide gates with locks on all sites
- plough vacant plots
- clean and regrade the ditch on Baldock Way
- cut main grass roadways two or three times during the growing season

But there was good news ...

1960 Electricity was installed at the HQ so there was no more need for paraffin lamps and stoves. This was better for storing the seed potatoes and for evening trading.

1961 Twenty OAPs were on the books, which, according to the AGM minutes, proved gardening "was not injurious to health".

1963 The President's Prize for the best plot was won by Mr W Adams, "a man of nearly 80 years".

Three sacks of vegetables were sent to the Mentally Handicapped Children's Society bazaar.

1966 One lady was welcomed to the AGM.

1967 The Society won The Dale Cup again.

1969 John Maffey retired as Trading Officer. "Trading has been a life-saver during several years of deficit on rents" (AGM minutes). Another loyal servant of the Society, Mr Brown, retired after 18 years as Treasurer. Mr C Butler took over.