

## **ASSOCIATION OF LIVERPOOL ALLOTMENTS “ BEST SITE” ANNUAL COMPETITION**

Every year there is a competition run by The Association of Liverpool Allotments (ALA) to find the Best Allotment Site in Liverpool. Our site currently holds that title.

To help us retain that accolade we are looking for the best 5 plots on our site to enter the competition again.

If you would like to take part please let a member of the committee know and enter your plot for inspection by. ....

The judging follows the same criteria the ALA use when judging the overall site which is as follows

(5 points are awarded for each item giving a maximum total of 100 points)

### **Crops/Plants**

1. Have a variety of crops/plants both flowers, vegetables, herbs, fruit trees or bushes
2. Should be weed free
3. Plants should be healthy, sturdy and free from damage and clearly labelled.
4. Evidence of successional planting
5. Examples of companion planting, use of marigolds, calendula and herbs

### **Condition of Plot**

1. The soil should be well cultivated and mulched where applicable
2. There should be evidence of crop rotation
3. Hedges or fencing should be well maintained
4. Unplanted areas should be weed free
5. At least 75% of the plot should be under cultivation

### **Environmental Care**

1. Evidence of conservation of water and water catchment
2. Active composting systems on the plot
3. Evidence of bug houses, beehives for insects
4. Evidence for use of organic fertilisers e.g. fish blood and bone, comfrey liquid.
5. Evidence of use of biological pest control

### **Safety and Layout**

1. Paved areas should be clean and tidy. Structures should be stable
2. Paths should be level and safe.
3. The plot must have a pleasing visual effect and be well designed
4. Safe use of canes and netting
5. Intelligent management of difficult conditions

