

freeholders but are separately charged to those who have access to them. Semi-public open spaces include Sunshine Corner and the grassed areas in Asmunds Place, and I deal with similar maintenance problems there. It's also important that people look after their allotments, and keep hedges pruned, so these need checking from time to time.

How does your job make a difference to the residents?

Areas which have been neglected are now being improved, such as the service road between Gurney Drive and Cornwood Close. I make sure that communal or leisure areas are kept in good repair, and can deal with any problems when they arise, so that a good standard can be established. It means that there is someone in the office dedicated to the issues that residents may have, who can respond quickly and knowledgeably to them. I can find contractors to fix drains, and get gardeners to sort out the communal areas. My job means that these issues are able to be prioritised, so that



Asmunds Place allotments

problems can be dealt with swiftly. It all helps ensure that the Trust's open spaces are maintained effectively yet economically.

How do the areas you deal with fit in with the Suburb philosophy?

The open spaces form part of the original founding vision of a green landscape. It is important that green spaces, allotments and tennis courts are maintained to ensure that they don't fall into disuse and are available for residents to enjoy. The Suburb was deliberately planned around the countryside as it was at the time, and

the designers incorporated existing vistas and trees into what they built. Considering that areas around the Suburb have become increasingly built up and less rural, it is particularly important to ensure that the green spaces of the Suburb are cared for, so that the founding vision of the Suburb is kept alive.

People were meant to share these areas; the allotments, for example, encourage people to get to know each other. Access to tennis courts, or a wood or green, was intended to be shared, and my job ensures that this will continue.

*(Left) Estate Manager John Haywood consulting with John Cassells of Garden Management Ltd
(Right) Trust representatives meet with Linnell Drive residents*

