**Allotment Rules Based on Long Established Working Practices**

Allotments are generally safe and pleasant places for both gardeners and neighbours. The rules keep things this way. Please note that these rules are specific to the Council’s allotment sites. Charities and private allotment associations have their own rules.

The tenant is responsible for any person they invite onto the allotments and for making them aware of the rules and health and safety guidance.

The information within this section explains some of the rules and what you should do if you feel a rule is being breached.

**WHY HAVE AN ALLOTMENT?**

The reason for an allotment plot is growing fruit and vegetables, flowers and herbs for the plot holder and his or her family.

Allotments may not be used for commercial gain, though the sale of small quantities of genuine surplus is allowed.

**Disputes**

If you are a plot holder and in dispute with another plot holder regarding their or your use of the allotment, you must bring this to the attention of the Parish Council i.e. the Clerk. If the dispute can be resolved locally the Parish Council will do so. If not, then you must put your complaint in writing to the Parish Council using the Complaints Procedure.

Please make sure that you include your name and address, the name of the allotment site and your plot number, as well as details of the dispute. The council will not intervene in the case of personal disputes, and if you make an allegation that is subsequently determined to be malicious you could lose your allotment.

**Dogs**

A tenant may take his or her dog to the allotment. However, dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times whilst on the allotment sites and not allowed to walk on any plots other than the tenant’s. Note, that if a dog is aggressive or particularly nervous, then this might constitute a nuisance to others, and you may be asked not to bring the dog to the allotments in future. In addition, dog waste must be picked up and disposed of appropriately by the owner.

[**Stray dogs**](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/100006/environment/331/animal_welfare/5) must be reported to the Council.

**Noise**

The rules state that tenants must not cause undue nuisance or annoyance to others. Such a nuisance is also covered by section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act. Complaints are investigated by the [**pollution control service**](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200228/pollution/576/noise_pollution) and can result in a fixed penalty notice, legal action and the termination of the allotment tenancy.

**Overgrown plots**

Allotment tenants are required to maintain their plots in a good state of cultivation and free of weeds and to maintain the paths around their plots. The law allows tenants three months from the start or renewal of tenancy to bring the plot into a good state.

The Council will not evict a tenant who is ill – or caring for someone who is ill – but has a realistic prospect of return to use the allotment.

If you garden a plot near an apparently unworked plot, you may wish to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council. Please remember that the best course of action, if a tenant is struggling to make a success of their plot, is to offer sensible help and advice about how to bring it into use.

**Rubbish**

The Council does not provide allotment tenants with a rubbish collection service. Any rubbish from allotments must be disposed of using the domestic waste collection service or by taking it to the borough's waste and recycling facilities. A tenant who leaves rubbish on the allotments is in breach of their tenancy agreement.

**Sharing a plot**

Allotments are let to a family living at a single address. It is not necessary to register all contributing members of the family as tenants.

A tenant may, by arrangement with the Parish Council, share an allotment plot with a friend. The tenant remains wholly responsible for the entire plot, the actions of the other person and the payment of rent. When the tenancy is terminated, the plot will be let to the next available person on the waiting list. If you share with someone who would like a plot of their own, they must register on the Parish Council’s waiting list at the earliest opportunity.

If your plot is becoming too much for you to deal with, speak to the Parish Council about finding some help (don’t expect the Parish Council to do the work for you).

**Sheds**

As the plots are small, sheds are not permitted. This may be reviewed in the future.

**Bonfires**

You are expected to compost as much material as you possibly can, except for particularly pernicious weeds or plants that are infected with fungal disease such as Club Root or White Rot. Any material that cannot be composted should be burnt outside of the restricted dates or taken to your local Recycling Centre.

You must take into account weather conditions before lighting to avoid causing a nuisance to neighbours of the site and surrounding properties. Fires must be kept small, contained and must not be left burning unattended. Only material from your plot is to be burnt, do not bring any material from outside for disposal on the allotment. The material to be burnt must be dry before lighting to ensure the fire burns quickly with as little smoke as possible.

Any violation of these restrictions will result in the termination of your tenancy.

**Document History**

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