



SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF ALLOTMENTS POLICY

The Safe and Sustainable Use of Allotments Policy was first adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 11th January 2024. The policy will be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in practices and the law. This policy is based on guidance from the National Allotment Society.

	Date	Minute Reference
Adopted	11/01/2024	23/326
Next Review	January 2027	

SAFE & SUSTAINABLE USE OF ALLOTMENTS POLICY

1. Overview

- 1.1 Nazeing Parish Council operate a single allotment site at Middle Street, Bumbles Green. This comprises a total of 45 plots, of varying sizes, which are let to tenants under a formal Allotment Agreement.
- 1.2 The Allotment Agreement defines the terms and conditions under which the contract between the Parish Council and the Tenant plot holder are made and includes some provision for managing potential safety risks.
- 1.3 By adhering to this Policy, allotment holders contribute to the well-being of the community and the sustainable use of the allotment site.
- 1.4 Tenants have a duty to consider the safety of themselves and others at all times.

2. General Health and Safety Considerations

- 2.1 Tenants should be aware of potential risks to themselves and others from, for example sharp objects, broken glass, waste timber and objects left lying around.
- 2.2 For their own safety, Tenants and visitors are always recommended to wear sturdy footwear, ensure that tetanus vaccinations are up to date, cover any cuts and grazes with a waterproof dressing and wear gloves when handling manure or chemicals.
- 2.3 Children should be encouraged to wash their hands after helping on an allotment.
- 2.4 The risk of tripping / slipping is greatly reduced by keeping plots tidy, removing waste items and carrying out necessary repairs quickly.

3. Invasive Species

- 3.1 The planting of invasive species such as Bamboo, Japanese Knotweed, Willow, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed is forbidden, and if seen should be reported to the Council immediately.
- 3.2 Tenants should not attempt to remove such species themselves.

4. Biodiversity

- 4.1 The Council recommends that tenants cultivate their allotment garden with regard for wildlife and that they encourage biodiversity by planting a variety of crops.
- 4.2 Tenants should avoid disturbing wildlife habitats.
- 4.3 Please report any concerns about wildlife to the Council.

5. Unsustainable Materials

- 5.1 In order to preserve the sustainability of the site, any non-organic materials should be kept to a minimum.
- 5.2 Single use plastic items must be avoided as well as any other materials that are not easily biodegradable, within normal composting conditions.
- 5.3 The use of vehicle tyres, non-degradable carpeting material or items containing asbestos are strictly prohibited.

6. Chemicals and Weed Control

- 6.1 The Council encourages the use of organic alternatives to synthetic chemicals and environmentally friendly gardening practices.
- 6.2 Control of Pesticides Regulations (amended) 1997 places responsibility on anyone who uses pesticides to ensure all reasonable precautions to protect the health of humans, creatures and plants, safeguard the environment, and avoid the pollution of water.
- 6.3 Manufacturer's instructions must be followed for use, storage and disposal of chemical substances.
- 6.4 Consider the use of personal protective equipment when using any chemicals.
- 6.5 When using any type of chemical spray, a Tenant should speak to the Tenants on neighbouring plots before use and be mindful of drifting chemicals in windy conditions. Organic sprays are preferable where possible.
- 6.6 It is recommended that biodegradable, breathable plastics or mulch be used for weed-retention.
- 6.7 Tenants must not use or store any rat poison on their own plot or anywhere on the allotment site.

7. Rubbish

- 7.1 Unwanted plot refuse and discarded rubbish must be removed from the site by the Tenant and must not be left on plots or communal areas at the site nor dumped into or over hedgerows or against boundary fences or on unused plots.
- 7.2 The Council recommends that all green waste should be composted by individual Tenants.

8. Watering

- 8.1 All tenants are encouraged to use the water supply efficiently and avoid wastage.
- 8.2 The Council encourages the collection of rainwater for irrigation. Water butts should be attached to sheds and covered with a loose lid where possible.

- 8.3 Please ensure all taps are securely turned off after use.
- 8.4 Any leaks should be reported to the Council as soon as possible.

9. Children

- 9.1 For their own safety, children and young people visiting the site must be fully supervised at all times.
- 9.2 Children must not be permitted to visit the site unaccompanied.

10. Fires and Barbeques

- 10.1 The Allotment Agreement stipulates that Tenants shall not burn any item or cause or permit a bonfire to be lit on either their own plot or anywhere on the site unless prior written permission is granted by the Council.

11. Fireworks

- 11.1 Firework displays are not permitted on the allotment site, nor must fireworks be ignited from any plot at any time.

12. Nuisance

- 12.1 Tenants, and their visitors, must not cause any nuisance or annoyance to neighbouring plot holders or neighbouring householders and must be respectful of other people's race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.