

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD ALLOTMENTS

## QUESTIONS & GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR PLOTHOLDERS

Wheathampstead Parish Council provides allotment plots, subject to availability and meeting eligibility criteria, at four sites in the parish for residents aged over 18 years. Below some common questions are answered and simplified guidance to the full rules and regulations stated.

Please refer to the full rules and regulations for details.



### WHY MIGHT I WANT TO RENT AN ALLOTMENT?

- Fresh air and outdoor exercise  
Gardening is recommended as an excellent form of exercise for people of all ages and abilities
- Relaxation and stress relief  
What better way to relax than a few hours gardening?
- Fresh produce  
Home grown produce tastes good and costs less than from the shops
- Organic Produce  
Concerned about chemical residues in your food? Learn to work with nature to control pests and diseases to produce chemical free food
- Social Interaction  
A great way to make new friends!

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### WHAT CAN I GROW ON MY ALLOTMENT?

It is a condition of tenancy that each allotment plot should be worked so that at least 75% of the total area is cultivated to growing soft fruit, flowers and vegetables for one's own consumption unless prior permission has been granted by the Parish Council. The number of miniature fruit trees per plot permitted is limited as is the area left to grass and uncultivated.



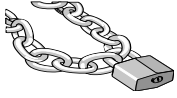
### CAN I KEEP LIVESTOCK ON MY ALLOTMENT?

It may be possible to keep, for example, poultry or bees (no cockerels) on your allotment with the written permission of the Parish Council providing the allotment holder maintains their own public liability insurance and proof of appropriate training and experience. Permission would be withdrawn if the livestock became a nuisance to other allotment holders.



### CAN I ERECT A SHED OR GREENHOUSE ON MY ALLOTMENT?

An allotment holder may only erect a shed, greenhouse, fruit-cage or any structure on their plot or plant trees and shrubs after written permission has been given by the Parish Council. You will need to provide dimensions and details of building structure. It is the duty of the allotment holder to ensure any structure is adequately maintained, securely erected and won't move or cause damage to others in high winds, and that it has the necessary planning permission.



### **SAFETY AND SECURITY ON THE ALLOTMENT**

The storage of fuel (i.e. gas/petrol/diesel) is prohibited anywhere on the allotment field (including sheds). You are advised not to keep valuable items in allotment sheds.



### **ALLOTMENT PLOT MAINTENANCE**

Allotment holders are expected to maintain the area and access paths around their plot and to ensure that these areas are clear of any obstacle or substance that may cause injury. Each allotment should be marked with the plot number on the stake or plate provided. Except in cases of normal wear and tear, the Parish Council reserves the right to charge tenants replacement costs.



### **PLEASE USE WATER ECONOMICALLY**

Please remember that the water used on the Allotments is metered so please take care not to be wasteful. It is not permitted to use sprinklers or have hose pipes unattended.



### **PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE TO OTHER ALLOTMENT HOLDERS**

All dogs must be kept on a lead and not allowed to run loose or foul the allotment field. Consideration must be given to other allotment holders if using weedkillers or other pesticides – neighbouring plots may be organic.

Bonfires can only be set between 8.00 and 12.00 on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It is not permitted to bring anything on to the allotment for the sole purpose of burning or dumping and plants should be dry, i.e. not freshly pulled out or rain sodden. Only have bonfires when the conditions are favourable and do not cause a nuisance to others in the vicinity.



### **SUPERVISION AND BALL GAMES**

Children under 16 years should be supervised by an adult at all times. Ball games are not permitted on the allotments



### **YOUR SITE REPRESENTATIVE**

Each allotment field has a representative who may be able to help with queries about your allotment and who liaises with the Parish Council. You may contact the Council directly via the Clerk, or through the field representative

Wheathampstead Parish Council [info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@wheathampstead-pc.gov.uk) 01582 832541



**PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE READ THESE REGULATIONS. A FULL SET IS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES.**

The Parish Council reserves the right to terminate the tenancy of any allotment holder should their plot become ill-kept, overgrown, neglected or the allotment holder has broken a regulation. In the first instance the site representative should make contact with the allotment holder to ascertain the reason for neglect.

If, for example, you find your plot too big, please contact the Parish Council to negotiate a smaller more manageable plot. An allotment holder cannot sub-let their plot or part there-of, but, following notification to the Parish Council, a 'second tenant' may assist you.

If any allotment rule is broken then a warning notice will be sent by the Parish Council Clerk to the allotment holder. If the allotment holder wishes to retain the plot, then the situation will be carefully monitored to ensure compliance. However, should it be known that the allotment holder wishes to give up the plot then an appropriate letter from the Parish Council Clerk will be sent confirming this.

An allotment holder has a duty to inform the Parish Council Clerk of any change to their address or contact details. It is helpful to also notify the allotment representative.

If an allotment holder wishes to vacate their plot then this should be put in writing to the Parish Council Clerk. Alternatively, notice of this can be given to the allotment site representative who will in turn inform the Parish Council Clerk, who would then confirm the situation in writing.

The four allotment fields within Wheathampstead area are controlled by the Parish Council. Each field has an allotment site representative and this person liaises between the allotment holders, the Parish Council Clerk and the elected Parish Councillor who has the responsibility to chair the Allotment Committee. The Parish Council Clerk will send out renewal notices and account for money in.

Failure to pay allotment rents within four weeks of the date set for payment will be construed as termination of tenancy and the plot will be re-let.

All issues regarding maintenance, vacant sites and non-use of plots should be known to the site representative and communicated to the Parish Council Clerk and/or Allotment Chairperson Councillor for action.

The Allotment Regulations will be amended from time to time and the appropriate changes will be posted on the allotment site notice board.

At each annual renewal of allotment rent a reminder of the Allotment Regulations will be stated and the presumption will be these have been read, understood and agreed upon by the allotment holder.

*March 2014*