



## SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### Introduction

This policy addresses how Hart Allotments\* accommodates 'green' and 'environmental' issues - such as promoting and encouraging wildlife, caring for the local environment etc.

### Supporting Wildlife

Hart Allotments:

- encourages the provision of bird/bat/hedgehog houses.
- promotes supplementary feeding of garden birds, especially during the winter and spring.
- promotes wildlife friendly gardening.

### Recycling

#### *Water*

The Tenant is encouraged to practice sensible water conservation, utilise covered water butts and consider mulching as a water conservation practice. (See the Buildings and Structures Policy for details). Water butts must be covered to avoid the risk of Legionnaires' Disease.

The Tenant shall have consideration at all times for other tenants when extracting water from water points.

Hoses and syphons are not permitted when connected to the metered water supply supplied by the farmers. Individual plot holders may use hoses/syphons on their own plots.

#### *Composting*

Plot holders may provide their own composting bins on their site. The location of these **must not** shade any part of a neighbouring plot.

Diseased or infected plants (such as plants infected with potato/tomato blight) **must not** be disposed of in the composting bins as this could affect the quality of the compost and destroy future crops. The diseased or infected plants must be put into plastic bags so as not to spread the disease and removed from the site for further disposal (such as burning or putting into the refuse bins). Plot holders are requested to notify the committee of any plant diseases they encounter.

### Bonfires /Fires/Incinerators/Chimineas

Due to health and safety reasons, (risk of burning, drifting of smoke, environmental issues) Hart Allotments does not permit plot holders to have individual bonfires on the site. The use of incinerators (and other stoves/chimineas or other forms of open fire or outdoor heating) are prohibited.

### Cooking

*Small Charcoal BBQs (with lids)*

\*Hart Allotments Ltd is an Industrial & Provident Society Reg No 32194R



Tenants are permitted to use small charcoal BBQs on their own plots provided that due consideration is given to other tenants present at the time (regarding drifting of smoke etc). Only BBQs that have a lid (or metal cover) may be used (so that it can be closed/covered if it starts to spark and pose a risk to others or their property). The BBQ **must** be attended at all times and it **must** be fully extinguished after use. Hot coals must not be disposed of near any combustible materials (e.g. near sheds, pallets etc), they must be kept on the tenant's own plot until cool. Spent coals must be removed from the site and must not be discarded at any place on the allotment site. Matches and firelighters may be used to light the BBQ and these may be stored on site as long as they are stored in a suitable metal container (such as a tin). BBQ coals may be stored out of sight on the site. **Flammable liquids must not be used to light the BBQ.** (The use of flammable liquids on BBQs is considered to be too dangerous and if stored on site could provide easy fuel for vandals). Gas BBQs are permitted but after use gas bottles must be removed from the appliance and must not be kept on site.

#### *Camping stoves*

Small butane or propane gas camping stoves may be used on site. After each use the gas **must** be turned off **at the bottle**. For security and safety reasons **gas bottles must not be kept on site**.

#### *Safety measures*

Tenants who perform any cooking on site (charcoal BBQs as well as camping stoves) are **required** to have a supply of water on hand (such as a full watering can of water) or a fire extinguisher BEFORE lighting the appliance/BBQ. The cooking equipment **must** be placed on a solid, level non-combustible surface so that if the equipment topples over it will not ignite combustible materials nearby such as sheds/dry grasses etc. Tenants must be vigilant at all times **during** and **after** use (in the case of hot coals) and take appropriate emergency procedures quickly if the fire gets out of control.

Tenants are responsible for the equipment in use and are responsible for other family/tenants in attendance at the time. It is recommended that tenants also bring a supply of fresh water with them and/or a first aid box which can be used to immediately treat any burns that may be sustained.

Hart Allotments reserves the right to withdraw this relaxation of the 'no fires' policy. This relaxation will be monitored to ensure that the above procedures are complied with.

#### **Use and storage of chemicals & flammable liquids.**

Hart Allotments discourages the use of potentially harmful chemicals in allotments and promotes organic alternatives (such as non-toxic slug pellets). Only commercially available products from garden or horticultural suppliers shall be used for the control of pests, diseases or vegetation.

When using any sprays or fertilizers the Tenant must:

- take all reasonable care to ensure that adjoining hedges, trees and crops are not adversely affected and must make good or replant as necessary should any damage occur and
- select and use chemicals, whether for spraying, seed dressing or for any other purpose whatsoever, that will cause the least harm to members of the public, game birds and other wildlife, other than vermin or pests and
- comply at all times with current legislation on the use of such sprays and fertilizer.



The storage of chemicals and fertilizers on site (such as in sheds etc) is not allowed.

Oil, fuel, lubricants or other inflammable liquids may be used on site but shall not be stored in any shed or container or left on site.

The use of carpets on the allotments (perhaps as a weed suppressant) is not allowed due to toxic chemicals that could leech out of the carpet and contaminate the soil. Weed suppressant capillary matting material is advised.

### **Plant Approvals/Restrictions**

Hart Allotments needs to ensure that items planted on the allotments will not have a negative effect on the surrounding area. For this reason, non-native plants will not be permitted (e.g. Rhododendrons, Bamboo etc). Invasive species of native plants (such as mint) are not permitted in the ground on the allotment plot, however, they may be planted into raised pots as long as the roots are not able to touch and spread in to the soil.

The Tenant shall not plant any trees other than fruiting trees and or fruiting bushes without the prior consent of Hart Allotments. Dwarf varieties are recommended. No tree or fruiting bush may be taller than 2 meters high at any time. They should therefore be pruned below this level so that the growth during the year does not exceed the permitted 2m height restriction. They should also be kept pruned so as not to stick out over plot boundaries. They must not be planted within 1 meter of any adjoining plot to avoid shading and root spread in to the neighbour's plot. The only exception to this is where a local agreement has been made with an adjoining neighbour. (However, please note that if a neighbour involved in a local agreement leaves the plot, the tenant with the tree may be asked to move it.) Any variety of tree may be grown in a pot as long as the roots are not able to spread in to the soil and the maximum height including the container is not exceeded.

### **Hedges, Paths and Fences**

The Tenant shall keep any boundary between neighbouring plots in good condition i.e. clear of grass/weeds etc. If hedges are used as part of the boundary this must be properly cut and trimmed. If fences are used as a boundary they should be well maintained and upright (i.e. not flopping on the neighbours plot keep all ditches properly cleansed and maintained and keep in repair any other fences and any other gates or sheds on his Allotment plot.

All public pathways between plots must be well maintained by each adjoining tenant (by regular weeding/grass removal and application of wood chips where possible). For those tenants located on the central path they are responsible for maintaining the path a standard size spade width from their boundary. Those tenants located on the perimeter of the site, are required to maintain half of the width of the path that adjoins their boundary. Public paths and haulage ways (tracks) must be kept clear at all times.



All public paths must be kept a minimum of 1 meter wide according to the Equality and Diversity Act 2010

### **Overnight Sleeping/Camping**

At the request of the farmers no overnight sleeping or camping is permitted at any place on the allotment site.

### **Rubbish and Refuse.**

The Tenant shall not deposit or allow other persons to deposit on the Allotment site any rubbish, refuse or any decaying matter (except manure and compost in such quantities as may reasonably be required for use in cultivation) or place any matter in the land, hedges, ditches or dykes in or surrounding the Allotment Site.

All non-compostable waste shall be removed from the Allotment Site by the Tenant.

### **Hard Landscaping Materials**

Hard landscaping materials are not permitted on site with the exception of slabs (made of materials such as concrete) that may be used for the base for a shed or greenhouse – however, the use of wet concrete to stabilize these slabs is not permitted. Other hard landscaping materials such as gravel/single are not permitted due to the problems of removal.

### **Vermin**

Any incidence of vermin on the Allotment Site must be reported to Hart Allotments.

### **Unused Allotments**

Hart Allotments will endeavour to plant wildflowers/insect attracting/pollinating plants on any long-term vacant plots.

### **Policy Implementation**

HA will appoint a member of the Management Committee to oversee this policy.

### **Enforcement**

Regular checks will be made to ensure compliance.