

Issue 22

April 2023



CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

A Message from Stephen Holman, Property Maintenance Officer

Firstly, I would like to start by saying that I hope you are all well and I wish you all the best going forward into the growing season of 2023!

The Council has considered the cost of living and has decided to only increase the cost per rod by 50 pence. This means a typical 5 rod plot will cost an extra £2.50 per year. This will hopefully cover the rising cost of water bills.

Whilst the majority of the plots are very good and the number of uncultivated plots has dropped from 90 per inspection to an average 25-30, some plot holders are not carrying out any grass maintenance and this is a common reason for the complaints made by many plot holders.

Please can you ensure that you help out with grass path maintenance during the growing season.

I recommend buying a modern battery strimmer which can be purchased from local shops from £45 upwards. Unfortunately grass maintenance is a necessary activity and is something all plot holders need to be involved with.

Overleaf is some useful information and guidance as well as some gentle reminders about some of the rules that apply on the City Council's allotment sites. These are intended to help us manage the allotments and ensure everyone gets the most from their plots.

As many of you know I am very approachable and I try to be as helpful as possible so please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

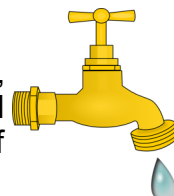
Contact:

Please note, I now have a new landline at my office so for all allotment enquires please call 01243 778474. (voicemail coming soon).

My email address is: s.holman@chichestercity.gov.uk

When the clocks change

When the Clocks Go Forward - The water is turned on, weed suppressant materials should be removed from all areas on your plot and fires may be lit after 5pm only if wind/weather conditions permit.



When the Clocks Go Backward - The water is turned off, weed suppressant materials may be used to suppress weeds during the colder months or after crops have finished, fires may be lit any time, if wind/weather conditions permit.

Disused Plots

This project started on the 30th of January 2019 and was finished on the 18th of July 2022. This brought back 29 plots into service which is just under 3500 square metres of ground.



Yearly Invoices

These will now be sent out between the 1st and 3rd of April each year. You should pay your bill within 30 days. We will only send one reminder so please make sure you pay in time.

If payment is not received after the reminder letter, you will receive a termination letter so it is very important that you get in touch with us if you are having difficulty paying.

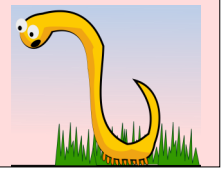
In future years, if you are intending to surrender your plot then please notify the council ASAP or before the 14th of March. This gives you until the 31st of March of that year to remove any personal items. If you have given notice and the plot has not been cleared by 31st March you will be charged accordingly.

Please **DO NOT** pay your bill before you have received your invoice and please use the **Reference Number for all payments** online otherwise we will not know if you have paid and you will receive a reminder letter.

Please also ensure you use our sort code and account number as, last year, 28 plot holders paid District Council. If you do this, you will still need to pay the City Council and it will be your responsibility to recover the money.

Composting This should be done correctly.

It is not possible to compost large items such as tree branches or other similar. All green waste needs to be contained in compost bins. All rubbish and green waste not being composted must be removed from site.



Turf and grass

Please do not turf large areas of your allotment. Grass seed and turf should only be introduced onto your plot for creating walkways or around a tree canopy. Large, grassed areas will have to be removed.

Rubbish

Any plot holder or persons associated with a plot holder who is caught fly tipping will result in the immediate eviction of the plot holder with seven days being given to remove all personal items and waste.

Weedkillers

Shop bought weedkillers can only be used on site providing it is not likely to rain within 4 hours and it is not windy.

Pests

Please do not contact us regarding foxes and vermin.



We cannot control all aspects of nature.



Glass Greenhouses

Shop bought glass greenhouses are now permitted on City Council allotments. Homemade constructions are permitted by application and approval only.

As with all sheds and greenhouses on City Council allotments, you will need permission from the City Council. A £50 deposit will be payable which will only be refunded if the greenhouse is in good condition or removed once you relinquish the plot. No broken glass is to be left on site.



Brick Kiln Garden Centre, Bognor Road, Chichester PO20 1EJ
www.brickkilngardencentre.co.uk  BrickKilnGardenCentre
telephone: 01243 756175

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