

Issue 23

April 2024



CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Allotment Newsletter

A Message from our Property Maintenance Manager

A warm welcome to you all.

I am Andrew Watson the new Property Maintenance Manager for the council who joined in November 2023; with over 15 years in Property Maintenance and many years prior in Operational and Project Management, I relocated from Surrey in 2021 to enjoy a more healthy environment in the Chichester area.

Back to business; we will be implementing a structured inspection scheme, to ensure allotments are maintained in good order and Health & Safety is compliant to ensure you and our staff are safe and that all plots are being kept in good order.

Stephen Holman has renumbered the plots on all allotments to make it simplified and easier to manage, if you pay by online banking, remember to use your new plot number. **Invoices will be sent out on the 15th April 2024.**

Water will be turned on soon, as we all know leaks may occur, we would be grateful if you could report any signs of leakage, so we can rectify quickly. Also, in these times of hardship, please can you ensure that you lock the gate behind you, to minimise unwanted access.

I wish you all a fruitful growing season in 2024!

Plot Numbers & Maps

Please note the maps have been updated so plot numbering is simpler. They start at #1 on the top left-hand corner of the site. Please remember to change any online banking reference numbers which may be saved before making a payment.

Vermin & Pests

A reminder that the council can only help out with bees and wasps on site.



Co-Workers

You may bring people to assist you on site if you are present. If you would like to provide them with a key to visit without you, please request a co-worker form. This will keep them up to date with any changes (which are updated by email /noticeboard).



UK Harvest

Have notified the Council that they will collect any surplus produce donated to St Pauls Allotment collection point "**once a fortnight from the first week in May to the end of October.**" The shed is located at the end of the track, under the first Oak Tree. Your allotment key will access the gate and the padlock on the green metal shed. **Donations should only be made over the weekend to prevent spoiling as collections are on Monday mornings.**

Plot Maintenance

Can all tenants please ensure that **ALL** of the plot is used during growing season(s) and all plots are put to bed before the colder weather arrives in autumn to winter. This includes grass trimming.

You will be issued with an uncultivated notice and you may lose your plot. As it states in the guidelines, all of your plot and surrounding areas of the allotment should be cultivated and kept tidy. If you are struggling to maintain all your plot then it can be reduced in area to allow other residents the opportunity.

Composting

Please ensure this is done correctly. You can have a maximum of 3 composting bays and they must be kept tidy, in contained areas. Items such as tree branches, plastic and metal **SHOULD NOT** be added. Items that do not breakdown efficiently should be taken off site and disposed of in a legal manner.

Trees

With help from St James Association we have updated the Tree Planting Policy - please read our rules and guidelines. Any trees brought on site from 1st April 2024 must be dwarf and need appropriate regular pruning. Any other tree types including evergreen trees will not be permitted after this date and will have to be removed from site. Clippings must be bagged up and removed site promptly.

Banned Items

The full list is available online but please note that **cardboard and carpet** should not be brought on site. This is to preserve the soil from carcinogenic substance for future tenants. Only suitable items should be brought on site and if you plan to use them promptly. Allotment plots are not for personal storage.

Commitment

Allotments are a big commitment and need weekly visits to prevent weeds from establishing etc. However the council acknowledges that from time to time due to family problems, injuries or illness you may be prevented from attending your plot.

You may be given a maximum of 28 days as a grace period during growing season. If you cannot attend or get help from friends and family you may eventually lose your plot. **This is the last resort and the council will help as much as possible** but you must communicate on regular basis with the allotment officer if you are suffering problems. Any information given is treated in confidence.

Safe Use Of Weedkillers

Please only use sprays when there is no wind. The direct method is preferred on allotments. This is very easy to apply, dipping an art paint brush in weedkiller and painting it directly on the leaves or a pruned area. This is the safest way to kill weeds without the risk of killing other plants. If you cause damage to a neighbouring plot, you **WILL BE BANNED** on using any weedkillers in the future. If you do not adhere to this it could lead to eviction.

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 are banned when the nice weather arrives. You will be notified.

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.

Regular Complaints

Trip hazards – Please do not leave belongings on communal pathways. These must be kept clear at all times. Hosepipes must also be stored on your plot, once finished with.

Site Entrance – Many tenants are complaining that tenants are not locking gates. Please make sure you lock the gate when entering and leaving the site as theft is on the rise with the cost of living crisis.



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Allotment

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