



# ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 24, March 2025

## Welcome to your Allotment Community update!

Dear All Tenants

The last few months may be a quieter time in the life of an allotment tenant, but I'm sure you have all been planning and preparing for the new season ahead.

We have had a busy year with the continual maintenance around the allotments sites and the team tackled some much-needed projects, to provide better access and security to sites.

We are looking for better communication between us all in 2025 and therefore if you have suggestions, you would like us to consider, please email them to me because, we want to assist in you enjoying your past-time. We have listened to comments regarding uncultivated notices and have remodelled our approach, read on for forthcoming changes.

In the meantime, I wish you good health and a peaceful growing season.

**Andrew Watson**  
Property Maintenance Manager



## Plot Vacancies

Towards the end of last year, we vetted the waiting list, which heavily reduced numbers, due to people not wanting a plot anymore, health and circumstance changes. In addition, we have had several leavers at the end of the season handing back plots, with this in mind if you know of anyone who would like a plot, please put them in contact with the team.



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## Security



Due to recent incidents of fly tipping and vandalism we are placing CCTV signs on all allotment gates and will be using a portable CCTV camera to monitor such issues.

Please ensure that you lock the gate after you have entered and left the allotment, please do not leave it open for someone else, it may not be a tenant that enters. Some people are feeling vulnerable when they find they are the last on the allotment and find the gate unlocked on exit. Remember **“Keep it Locked!”**

## Share Your Stories!

We'd love to hear from you. Whether it's a recipe you've created with your produce or photos of your seasonal allotment, send your contributions to [allotments@chichestercity.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@chichestercity.gov.uk)



## Changes coming in 2025 Charges:



Allotment charges are rising in line with inflation with an addition of 25p per rod, therefore if you have a 5 rod plot you will pay an additional £1.25 per annum.

All New tenants will pay a £50.00 deposit for their plot, this will be returned when the agreement is ended by any party providing the plot has been returned to the condition it was in at the start of the contract. Photos will be on the contract. If the plot is returned in a neglected state the £50 will not be returned and will be used to fund preparation of the plot to a new tenant. Additional charges may be sort dependant on the levels of waste left behind.

## Inspections & Notices:

Notifications of inspections will continue, to give you advance notice to keep your plot in order, we do realise that life throws curve balls e.g. ill health, accidents, bereavements, etc. Please let us know of issues that are going to impact the status of your plot. We do understand and will work with you. We don't want you to be stressed by these inspections.



We have listened to your feedback on letters and notices issued in the past and will be introducing new letters which take onboard your comments and will reflect a more two-way communication approach.

"Uncultivated Notices" are being renamed to "Improvement Notices" this is to reflect that the whole plot will be reviewed, taking into account Health and Safety aspects, condition of plot parts that you are responsible for.

## Traffic Light Notification System



### "Thank You"

Thank you for your continuing hard work to maintain your plot to high standards, it is very much appreciated.



### "Improvement Notice 1"

Thank you for your work on your plot, unfortunately there are some areas of improvement required, these are:

- Example – grass paths not maintained, weeds, unsafe structure, etc.

Please contact the allotment team to advise on how you will aim to rectify the above in 28 days of this notice. Rest assured we are not looking at a termination of your plot, it's to help you and your bordering tenants.



### "Improvement Notice 2"

We are concerned with the status of your plot as it is failing to meet the allotment T&C's and Guidelines for the following reasons:

· Example – As above, but failure to comply.

Please contact the allotment team to advise on any valid reasons why your plot is not meeting guidelines, we are here to listen and assist. We can create an action plan with timescales (14 or 28 days) to get your plot back on track. If the agreed action plan is not followed or you have made no contact within 14 days of this notice, we will have to initiate termination.



We are terminating your plot as you have failed to meet the standards as per "Tenancy Agreements" and "Allotment Terms & Conditions & Guidelines"

Therefore, this notice allows you the following from date of issue:

- 14 days to remove all personal items, plants, waste
- or
- 28 days to remove all personal items, plants, waste, shed/greenhouse
- or

IMMEDIATE – Abusive and aggressive behaviour toward City Council Officers and other Allotment Tenants. Theft, Fly-tipping and causing damage or interfering with another tenants plot.

# Allotment News & Updates

## LATEST NEWS

### Florence & Blackberry

Soil testing was performed to see if plots which were identified with contamination from the past could be reinstated without raised beds.

Unfortunately, contamination is still heavy and raised beds are here to stay for a long time. Remember to maintain your membranes on raised plots.

Tree works were performed at Blackberry Lane due to high-sided vehicles passing on Florence Road southbound.

New friends have been made with tenants sharing knowledge for assistance with manual help. Everyone needs some help sometimes, we can all trade with our talents!

### St Paul's

The perimeter of the site has been secured with 6ft Security fencing, eventually after a stalled start and a change of contractor.

Thanks go to all tenants that assisted in clearing the edges of their plots giving access to the contractors, it made the job run smoothly and was completed quickly.

### St James

The main entrance was stabilised and parking area created a welcome addition I am sure to aid deliveries.

### Whyke

Tree works were performed to the North corner due to high-sided vehicles passing on Whyke Road southbound

### Kingsham

Main entrance has been re-laid to remove the trip hazard from the ground movement.

### Roman Amphitheatre

Issues with water supplies were rectified and will be addressed in the new year.