



ALLOTMENT RULES

Lichfield & District Allotments Society



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VERSION 1

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1.1 General Rules

- Any aggressive or abusive behaviour towards a committee member or fellow plot holder will be dealt with by immediate eviction. The Lichfield and District Allotments Society takes a Zero tolerance policy to aggressive and abusive behaviour.
- You are responsible for all visitors to the site (this includes children and pets) as such you shall not cause, permit, or suffer any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment plot.
- You shall aid the Site Representative(s) as reasonably requested to maintain the allotment site in good order and repair.
- You shall ensure that the allotments are safe and secure when leaving the allotments.
- The Society takes no responsibility for damage to vehicles brought and parked on site.
- Tenants are responsible for supervision of children and pets on site.
- Our insurance does not cover the loss of the tenant's own tools and equipment even if kept in a locked shed.
- Equipment owned by the society (mowers, hedge trimmers etc.) should only be used by competent people. In practice, tenants should either read the relevant equipment operation manual or receive training from their site representative.

1.2 The Plot & Upkeep

- The allotment plot shall be used for an allotment garden and for no other purpose.
- You shall always keep the allotment plot properly cultivated and reasonably free from weeds and in good condition.
- You shall clear your allotment plot of old and decaying plants at the end of the season, leaving them only encourages disease and vermin. Remove all potato haulms (tops) affected by potato blight from the site.
- You have a responsibility to maintain the path to the right-hand side of your allotment plot when viewed from the main track or where there is no track boundary as determined by the Site Representative. This path must be kept free of obstruction, trimmed and cut and kept not less than 24" wide.
- You must always keep free any vehicle and pedestrian access to the site. Any delivery of material to an individual allotment plot that is dumped on any access road, e.g. manure, must be moved within 7 days.
- You shall keep every hedge forming part of your allotment plot properly trimmed and cut.
- Do not allow debris to build up on your plot. Only items that can be used for cultivation shall be kept on the site.

1.3 Prohibitions

- The erection of any shed, greenhouse or polytunnel or any other similar structure requiring doors or gates, on the allotment is strictly forbidden though lightweight fruit cages are acceptable provided that they can be easily dismantled and do not have concrete foundations.
- You must not dispose of compostable material within the allotment site outside your allotment plot boundary. Non-compostable material must be taken to the Council Refuse Tip.
- You must not keep any beehives on the allotments or let loose any animals or birds on the allotments.
- No fruit or other trees shall be planted on the allotment.
- No vehicle tyres, carpet or under felt is allowed on the allotment.
- No boundary fence around any allotment plot shall be erected that is more than 1.0 metre high.

1.4 Cultivation Standards

Allotment agreements state that tenants shall keep the allotment properly cultivated and reasonably free from weeds and in good condition. The way individual plots are maintained should not cause a nuisance or problems for other plot holders. Cultivation standards are set by the committee and monitored by Site Reps.

1.4.1 LDAS Site Reps Monitoring: Use of Plots

LDAS Site Representatives will monitor plots to ensure that plot holders:

- Use their plots to grow fruit, vegetables or flowers: it's not enough to keep plots weed free and bare or simply covered over with sheeting but leave them unplanted in the growing season.
- Keep them free of perennial weeds and removing seed heads before they set. Perennial weeds include couch grass, ground elder, brambles, nettles and bind weed.
- Deal with rubbish and waste appropriately. Plot holders are responsible for removing all rubbish from site. Do not bring material onto your plot unless you intend to use them – the allotment should not be used as overflow personal storage space. Carpet and tyres should not be brought onto or used on allotments. If you wish to bring large items onsite, please get permission from your Site Rep beforehand.

1.4.2 LDAS Site Reps Monitoring: Ensuring Cultivation Standards are Met

LDAS Site Reps will keep monitor all plots to make that cultivation standards are met:

- New plot holders should expect Site Reps to keep a close watch on them in the first few months and to review their progress in the first three months of their tenancy. You should work to have at least 25% of your plot in cultivation in the first three months in the growing season and to have made reasonable preparations for cultivation during the autumn/ winter months.
- We know that "life" happens. If you have temporary problems that mean you are not able to maintain your plot, please let your Site Reps know as soon as possible and be ready to discuss realistic options, including taking on a smaller plot (such as a quarter plot) or else temporarily giving up. There is no shame in giving up a plot if you don't have time to cultivate it, but it creates real problems when people simply let their plots go to waste. We will be supportive of tenants who have looked after their plots well and leave them in good working order.
- Sites will be monitored to make sure that standards are being met. As part of this Site Reps will take photographic images of plots on handover day and from time to time. When plots drift below standards the photographic images will be used to build up a record of progress/ inaction.
- When tenants are not meeting the Society's standards, they will be sent a warning letter, which gives tenants notice that they need to put right problems on their plot or else they provide an opportunity for tenants to let us know if they are unable to maintain their plot. Tenants have two weeks to respond to first and final warning letters. If there is no response within the warning periods, then the tenant will be evicted.

1.5 Definitions

- **You:** The Tenant as named on the Tenancy Agreement or any other person working on the allotment plot to assist the Tenant.
- **LDAS:** Lichfield and District Allotments Society.
- **Site Rep:** Site Representative

1.6 Version History

Version	Status	Date
Version 1	New format, including cultivation standards, addition of responsibility for personal items and use of society equipment. Stronger wording around abuse and behaviour.	June 2022