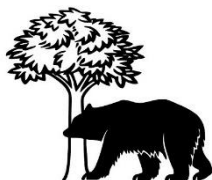


BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL



Allotment Policy

PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS

1. The Town Council shall provide allotments available for rent by any permanent resident of the Town Council area, for the growing of fruit and vegetables for personal or family use and including (with written agreement of the Council) the keeping of hens, bees and rabbits or any other living creature.
2. In choosing a location for a group of allotments, the Council shall bear in mind
 - i) the ability of tenants to get there by foot
 - ii) that the site should be relatively level
 - iii) that there should be at least 300mm of existing topsoil
 - iv) that water is already available or close by
 - v) that the site has an open aspect (not too shaded)

TENANCY ARRANGEMENTS

3. The provision of an allotment shall be subject to a standard Tenancy Agreement being signed between the Council and an individual and shall be subject to a payment of an annual rent.
4. The standard form of tenancy agreement used by the Council shall be reviewed at least every 2 years.
5. The rent for each individual allotment will be reviewed at least every 2 years.
6. Rents will be collected annually in February and any failure to pay will mean the cancellation of the tenancy agreement and eviction.
7. Groups of allotments shall be fenced or otherwise enclosed, and provided with at least one lockable pedestrian gate, with those fences, gates and other boundaries to be provided and maintained by the Council
8. An allotment shall not be less than 125 sq. metres in area, and each allotment within a group shall have access via a shared footpath. Shared footpaths shall be maintained communally among all tenants within the allotment group.
9. Half allotment plots shall be available on the agreement of both parties.

10. Tenants may only grow plants which are harvested annually. The planting of trees is forbidden.
11. Tenants are forbidden from the composting of food waste at the allotments to discourage rodent populations.
12. Tenants are forbidden to use pesticides/herbicides in line with council policy.
13. Tenants may only have one shed/storage building, no greater than 245cmx185cm in area and 230cm in height. On half plots no greater than 185cmx125cm.
14. Tenants may only have one greenhouse, no greater than 245cmx185cm in area and 230cm in height. On half plots no greater than 185cmx125cm.
15. Wherever possible, groups of allotments shall be provided with a single mains water supply for shared use by all tenants. The water supply will be metered, and the annual charges for water (excluding any standing charge) shall be recompensed to the Council by the tenants on a pro-rata basis, by size of plot.
16. In addition to shared footpaths, an area of at least 10 sq metres shall be kept as communal space within each group of allotments.

NUMBER OF ALLOTMENTS

17. The provision of allotments will be permanently advertised on the Council's website, and a waiting list will be maintained by the Council.
18. The Council shall provide allotments at the rate of at least 1 per 500 residents, as measured at the most recent census (or other statutory assessment of population)
19. The number of allotments will be reviewed at least every 5 years, and the council will undertake to increase the number provided if:
 - i) The number of residents on the waiting list is equal to or greater than 50% of the current number of allotments, or
 - ii) The population of the town council area has risen in line with Clause 11, or

Any resident has been on the waiting list for a continuous period of more than 3 years