

DUNBLANE ALLOTMENT GROUP

RULES FOR ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

Introduction

The Dunblane Allotment Group exists to provide allotments for permanent residents of Dunblane, Ashfield and Kinbuck only. Dunblane Allotments are managed by volunteers from within the membership of the Dunblane Allotment Group (DAG). These volunteers comprise the Dunblane Allotment Committee. The following rules and conditions are agreed by the DAG Committee and all plot holders are required to abide by them. The aim of the rules is to enhance all members' experience of holding an allotment and to ensure the smooth running of the business of the Allotments. The rules are ratified by the DAG Committee and will be changed from time to time and reissued to members.

Although the allotment land is leased from the council, the site is managed by the DAG Committee and as a result there are lots of jobs that are required to keep the site working over and above managing individual plots eg ensuring water is available, communal weeding, strimming, organising manure etc. These are all carried out by the members and the Committee welcomes any input both large and small.

Rules

1. Rents are to be paid by **30th November** For any plot rents not paid by the due date, the committee reserve the right to terminate the tenancy after giving four week's notice in writing to the plot holder.
2. Application for a plot must be made through the Membership Secretary. All changes of tenancy will, without exception, be managed by the committee. This includes plot succession or transfer, and each application will be considered on its own merits. Plot holders may not sub-let their plots or subdivide their plot and must work their own plots.
3. In the event of any tenant contravening or failing at any time to comply with the Rules, the committee is entitled to terminate his or her tenancy as described in Paras. 37 to 41 of the Constitution.
4. On resignation or termination of the tenancy, the plot holder will give up their plot in reasonable condition, free from all debris and will remove all their personal belongings and any structures unless agreed with the new tenant that they be retained. This must take place within two weeks of resignation or of the date of the termination letter. The gate key must be returned to a member of the committee.

5. Plot holders must:

5.1 Cultivate¹ their allotment for fruit, flowers and vegetables according to the principles of environmentally friendly gardening. By environmentally friendly the DAG understands that no artificial, chemically based fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides may be used. Methods of pest control must be approved by the Committee.

5.2 Keep their plot clean and control weeds, and otherwise maintained in a good state of cultivation and fertility. Footpaths adjacent to their plot must be kept weed free and are the responsibility of the plot holder. Every effort must be made to keep weeds under control on plot boundaries. Only flexible coverings e.g. black polythene or commercial materials may be used as a weed suppressant on cultivated areas within the plot, and only for a maximum time of six months. Longer term weed suppressant may be used only on paths.

5.3 Cultivate the whole of their plot within one year of commencement of the tenancy and subsequently each year by the 1st May. Failure to comply with this will result in the plot holder being asked to vacate the plot.

(Cultivate means *"to till and prepare land and/or soil for the growth of crops. To tend, harvest and improve the crops and the ground."* Ref Scottish Allotment Groups 2010)

5.4 Keep the gates closed at all times in order to deter rabbits and other animals. It is the responsibility of the last person leaving the site to ensure that the gates are locked and secured. Always lock the gate if in doubt as a spare key is kept in the summer house.

5.5 Make sure that all refuse emanating from plot cultivation is composted, burned on the plot holders own plot, or removed from the site.

5.6 Clean up their plots at the end of the season and remove all decaying vegetables to discourage soil based pests.

5.7 Make bonfires only on their own site. One metre's width to be allowed round the fire site. Bonfires must not be left unattended. Material to be burned must be allowed to dry out thoroughly before igniting. No compostable material, plastic, synthetic or other material likely to emit dense smoke to be burned.

5.8 Keep dogs under strict control if they are brought onto the site and any mess cleaned up.

5.9 If any member requires help or assistance with cultivating their plot as a temporary measure then they must apply to the Committee and support will be offered where justified

6. Plot holders must not:

6.1 Grow produce for any commercial purpose.

6.2 Enter any other plot, interfere with crops, or take produce without the plot holders express permission.

6.3 Grow plants to produce illegal substances or grow trees other than fruit trees.

6.4 Cause or permit any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment or any property adjoining or neighbouring their allotment.

6.5 Obstruct or encroach on any path or roadway set out by the committee for the use of plot holders.

6.6 Remove soil from the allotment site.

6.7 Plant trees, shrubs or fruit bushes which are likely to be injurious to, or unreasonably interfere with other plot holders. Such trees must not encroach on the paths or boundaries of the plot, and must not cast shade onto neighbouring plots.

6.8 Deposit or allow other people to deposit any refuse or any decaying matter (except manure and compost in such quantities as may be reasonably required for use in the tenant's own cultivation). Refuse and waste from outside the allotment site must not be brought onto the site for disposal.

6.9 Cover their plot with any substance eg gravel, slabs, wood larger than an area of 6'x6'.

6.10 Use any type of carpet as a weed suppressant.

6.11 Keep animals or livestock of any kind, including pigeons and bees, on the site without prior consultation and express permission from the committee.

6.12 Erect any shed, polytunnel, or greenhouse or make a pond without first applying to the committee in writing. The maximum size for any shed will be 8' by 6'. Any which are given approval must not shade neighbouring plots.

6.13 Park vehicles on, or adjacent to the site whilst they work their plot. Vehicles may be brought to the site for delivery/removal purposes only and must be removed to the Haining car park as soon as the delivery is complete.

6.14 Use their plot for residential purposes.