

Guidelines for Hollin Lane Allotments

We want Hollin Lane Allotments to be a friendly, harmonious, and productive place to grow food. We are all expected to respect the rights of our neighbours, to garden our plots sustainably and to pass them on in good condition to the next tenant when the time comes. This includes respecting different gardening styles e.g. organic vs. 'traditional' and avoiding unwanted spread of pesticides or weeds.

Rules

We are expected to follow The Council's "Allotment Rules", especially Section 6. You can find a copy on our website at www.hollinlaneallotments.org/rules/. In addition we have some local guidelines which have been discussed at various AGMs:

Trustee Inspections

- The Trustees will inspect the plots every 3 months to make sure they are safe and well cultivated. The dates are on the website and on the notice board on the Hut and on the gates.
- If your plot is neglected or unsafe you will get a warning letter with a timescale for improvements. If the problem carries on you may have to give up your plot.
- Please tell us if you are ill or if you are going to be away so that we can make allowances. You can contact the Committee members by emailing committee@hollinlaneallotments.org.

New Plotolders

- You are expected to have at least HALF of your plot cultivated by the first SIX months, and the WHOLE plot cultivated by the end of the first year.
- You are expected to have a compost heap (lots of different models available or build one out of scrap timber/ pallets) and NOT to move soil or compostable weeds off your plot.

Paths and Boundaries

- The Trustees will mark where the paths should go.
- Please keep the paths between plots trimmed and free of branches/brambles.
- You are responsible for the path to the LEFT of your plot as you face uphill.
- Keep the path round the edge of the site clear for access.
- Do not remove stones from the walls around the site.
- Each plot should have a number visible from the main path.

Access to the site

More information: www.hollinlaneallotments.org

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- Please keep the code for the locks secret. **Scramble the numbers.**
- Keep the gates locked at all times.
- Don't allow strangers on to the site.

Events

- Events are announced by posters and on our website. Also, any member can email our mailing list: hollinlaneallotments@googlegroups.com.
- We have an AGM every autumn. Please think about joining the Committee; we need lots of active members.
- Bring and Buy sales: We have these in May and June. Please grow some extra plants to sell. Vegetables, fruit and ornamentals are welcome.
- Show: We have an allotment show every September where the best (and oddest) produce is judged. This is an enjoyable event for all, not just "experts". Have a look at the schedule early in the year and plan ahead.
- Plot Judging: Judging is done by an outside expert, and there are prizes for BEST PLOT, BEST NEWCOMER
- Cleanup days: we have occasional communal work parties to clean up the site or do jobs which help everyone. Announcements by email and posters.

Some questions and answers:

Q: Who are the Committee members?

A: Their names and plot numbers are posted on the Hut and on the website.

Q: What is for sale from the Hut?

A: There is a list items for sale and names of key holders on the side of the hut.

Q: Is it OK to have bonfires?

A: Yes, as long as they don't cause a nuisance to other gardeners or neighbours. Only burn dry material (no plastic!) and make sure the fire is out before you leave.

Q: How do I get rid of rubbish?

A: Every plot should have a place for making compost. Compost all plant material. We try to provide a skip once a year for non-compostable rubbish, please remove everything else from the site.

Q: Can I bring children? What about guests?

A: They are welcome as long as they are accompanied by a member. Don't allow them to walk on other people's plots or to pick except from communal areas.

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