

Expected Standards of Cultivation and Membership of Eynsham Allotment Association

Please be sure that you have read and fully understand your Handbook which sets out what the Association expects from its members. These notes are to elaborate what it means to be a member of the Eynsham Allotment Association, to clarify the standard of cultivation expected from plot holders and describe some of the disciplinary and other processes of the Association.

The Wellbeing of the Association

Plot holders and members of the Allotment Association share responsibility for the wellbeing of the Association and for the maintenance, standard and upkeep of the Allotment estate. This will normally involve caring for those common and shared areas of the allotments that are in close proximity to their plot, assisting in regular working parties, and being available to serve on the committee or assist with projects at the request of the Committee.

The Required Standard for the Cultivation of Plots

The primary purpose of an allotment is for the growing of vegetables, fruit and flowers. Plot holders should be actively cultivating the greater part of an allotment for the growing of vegetables, fruit or flowers and should ensure grass and weeds do not become overgrown. A plot is to be used as an allotment and show clear evidence of crop growing activity. Pests, infestation and disease must not be allowed to multiply and where possible not invade other plots. The use of poisons is prohibited. The use of pesticides and herbicides is discouraged, only those permitted under current government regulations are allowed (<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides>) and must never cause interference with neighbouring plots. Allotment plots should be kept generally tidy and well presented.

The Review of Plots

The Committee regularly reviews the state of cultivation of the plots currently about four times a year. When a plot is found to fall below the expected standard of cultivation or present some other matter of concern, the plot holder will be contacted and receive a letter drawing the matter to their attention and offering support in addressing the issue. If the matter has not been addressed by the time of the next review visit the plot holder will receive a second letter requiring them to take action to address the problem by a specified date.

The Disciplinary Process

If after having received two letters, a matter has still not been addressed or resolved by the time specified the plot holder will be given a short period of notice to remove all personal items from their plot. At the end of this notice period, the plot holder automatically relinquishes their claim to anything left on the plot. The plot will become vacant and available to be let to someone on the waiting list. A member having been issued with a Notice to Quit has the right of Appeal to the Committee which can be exercised by writing to the Secretary. In addition where a formal complaint is made against a member of the Association it should be made in writing and addressed to the Secretary who will refer it to the Officers of the Association who will hear the case and take whatever action they deem necessary. When, as a result of such a disciplinary procedure, a member is required to leave the Association, the member will have a right of Appeal to the Committee.

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The Annual payment of Rent

Please remember, rents are due each year at the time of the AGM. It is important that plot holders pay these on time. The Committee shall be at liberty to take possession and re-let the plot without further notice should the due rent not be paid within 28 days of the AGM.

Adopted in Committee 20th April 2023