

Royal Paddocks Allotments - Summary of Key Plotholder Guidelines

We aim to continue the traditions of this historic site and keep it open and welcoming, so plotholders can tend their plots in a relaxed and productive manner. We promote shared enjoyment of growing our own vegetables, fruit and flowers. Plotholders are invited to help us continue a successful tradition of participative self-management, led by the Plotholders Committee. Plotholders are encouraged to let Committee Members know their views and wishes, attend the AGM every November and to participate in many other ways through the year on work parties and at social events. Your attention is drawn to the formal Royal Paddocks Allotments regulations at <http://www.paddocks-allotments.org.uk/about/regulations.htm> and to the *Plotholder Information Pack* given to all new plotholders, which is also on the website and is available in the Seed Store café.

The key items are summarised below:

- Allotments should be cultivated effectively as set out in the guidance and indicated in any requirements laid down after the periodic inspections that are carried out 3 times a year. (*See Plot Inspections Guidance.*)
- Allotment holders are responsible for keeping the paths surrounding their allotments tidy, and must display their plot number legibly on their plot. (*See Condition 3.*)
- Bonfires are only allowed between October to March, as set out in the Regulations, but plotholders can use the incinerator provided at all times. No fire should be lit when it could inconvenience other allotment holders or local residents, especially between 10am and 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays and noon to 4pm on weekdays. They must not be left unattended. (*See Rubbish and Bonfires Guidance.*)
- All plotholders should treat others and their plots with respect and should not do anything that affects adversely others' cultivation of crops. Any fruit trees should be planted away from the plot edges in a way which avoids shading other plots when mature, and unsuitable trees such as conifers should not be planted. (*See Trees Guidance.*)
- Courtesy and consideration should be shown to other plotholders at all times including 1) keeping children and dogs under proper control (with dogs on leads) 2) avoiding noise nuisance to others by not using amplified audio devices (using headphones as an alternative) 3) only using strimmers and petrol mowers at times which cause the least disturbance to your neighbours. (*See Etiquette Guidance.*)
- The erection of sheds requires the consent of the Plotholders Committee, after consultation with neighbouring plotholders. (*See Sheds and Greenhouses Guidance.*)
- Yearly rent is due on 1 October, in advance, for 31 October. Plots may not be sublet. (*See Conditions 1 and 5.*)
- Security and safety is important and all should close entrance gates and keep keys secure. Any irregular events (such as a break-in) should be reported to a member of the Committee. Anything poisonous should be kept locked securely. Car use should be limited to essential journeys only. (*See Condition 7 and Cars and Parking Guidance.*)

Day to day, the allotments are run by the Plotholders Committee, whose roles include:

- Maintaining the basic infrastructure of the site, including the main paths and pumps;
- Managing the RPA funds responsibly;
- Promoting the provision of suitable facilities and social activities for plotholders;
- Representing the interests of all plotholders with the relevant authorities;
- Encouraging good environmental practices across the site to sustain bio-diversity and appropriate habitats for beneficial wildlife (See Nature Blog on the website);
- Mediating in disputes between plotholders;
- ...and being responsive to plotholders' requests whenever possible.

A Committee member is available every Sunday morning at The Seed Store, from 11 am until 12pm except only Xmas and New Year weekends. Otherwise, the members names can be found at <http://www.paddocks-allotments.org.uk/about/committee.htm>. Thanks for your active participation and support!

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