

Buckden Parish Council ALLOTMENTS

Eligibility Criteria and Allocation of Plots



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1. Definitions and Interpretations

"The Council" means Buckden Parish Council, and includes any committee of the Council, or any allotment officer appointed by the Council under the Allotments Acts 1908 and 1950.

"Allotments" means an area of land set aside by the Council, and protected by statute, for the purposes of leisure and of growing vegetables, flowers and fruit.

"Allotment Tenant" means any person, 18 years or older and residing within the Parish of Buckden, who is thereby entitled to rent an allotment plot situated within one of the Council's allotment sites.

"Allotment Plot" means a defined area of land, within each allotment site, that is available to rent for an annual sum (a full plot being 5 poles (approx. 150 sq yds) in area).

"Allotment Rent" means the annual charge for renting an allotment plot for 12 months, from the 1st November to 31st October. This charge is reviewed annually by the Council who will undertake to give 3 months notice of any changes in the amount payable.

2. Eligibility Criteria and Allocation of Plots

2.1 To be eligible for an allotment a person must be 18 years or older and, with effect from 1st November 2011, all new applicants must reside within the Parish of Buckden (**Allotments Act 1908 Section 23 (1)**). See also 2.9

2.2 The Council will supply information regarding available plots and provide a site map to allow applicants to visit and inspect potential plots before making a decision to confirm their interest in a particular plot. The 'Allotment Agent' (currently councillor Fred Day) also has informal arrangements with a number of existing allotment tenants who have agreed to show interested potential tenants around their site.

2.3 When someone confirms their wish to commence a new tenancy, having identified a vacant plot and clarified that they are eligible, then they will be asked to sign a Tenancy Agreement before being allowed to start work on the plot.

2.4 All allotment plots are let on an as seen basis. The Council is not able to carry out improvement or clearance works for new tenants.

2.5 When there are no vacant plots available the Council operates a Waiting List. When a plot becomes vacant the person on the top of the list is given first choice for the tenancy. People are given two weeks to respond to this offer and if no response is received within this time, their name is removed from the waiting list. If they do not wish to or cannot take that plot at that point in time, the Council will allow them to defer whilst staying at the top of the list until another plot becomes available. In this instance, the plot will be offered to the next person on the list.

2.6 Due to the increasing demand for allotment plots new tenants will not be allowed to rent more than a single plot (5 poles) on initial allocation. Existing tenants who currently rent either one or two plots will not be affected, but tenants currently renting two plots will not be allowed to increase their holding.

2.7 Each allotment tenancy will be made in the name of one person only, even if more than one person works on the plot.

2.8 From 1st November 2011 total plot holding will be restricted to a maximum of two full size plots per tenant and also per household. This rule does not affect existing household allocations agreed prior to 1st November 2011

2.9 From 1st November 2011 new applicants must reside within the Parish of Buckden however existing tenants who reside outside the parish may continue with their tenancies until they relinquish them.

Note: The 'Waiting List' will not be displayed on the Buckden Parish Website for personal privacy and security reasons.