

Stotfold Town Council



ALLOTMENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where are the allotments in Stotfold?

At the first roundabout coming into Stotfold from the A1, take the first exit onto Norton road and very soon after that take the single track on your left before the houses. This takes you to the gate for the Norton Road Allotments. There is no car park at this site.

The Common Road Allotments, which are owned by The Eleemosynary Trust of William Field but are managed by Stotfold Town Council, are at the other end of Stotfold. From the High Street turn right onto Regent Street at the traffic lights. Common Road is the left hand turn off Regent Street just before you get to The Green. The allotments are at the far end of the road on the left. There is a car park for the site, which is padlocked. The code for which is given to plot holders.

2. How do I find out if there are any plots available and apply for an allotment?

The allotments are very popular and therefore we operate a waiting list system. When a plot becomes available it is offered to the applicant whose name appears first on the waiting list. Priority is given to Stotfold residents. Non-residents can be added to the waiting list but would only be offered a plot if there are no Stotfold residents waiting.

To be added to the list please go to our Allotments webpage, where there is an Allotment Waiting List Application Form:

http://www.stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk/Allotments_22392.aspx

3. How much does an allotment plot cost per year?

4. Charges for plots from September 2022 to September 2023 are: full plot £52, half plot £26. These are reviewed annually and rise to £70 for a full plot and £35 for a half plot from September 2023 to September 2024.

3.a What if I take on an allotment plot part way through the year?

It was agreed by Council that plots with less than 4 months left on their current years tenure may be offered at a reduced rate.

5. What facilities are there at the allotment sites?

Water standpipes are provided on site available for use by plot holders. Taps are switched off between November and March to prevent freeze damage and burst pipes.

6. How is the allotment site accessed?

The Norton Road allotment site is via a padlocked gate. A key for the padlock is issued to all new tenants once their tenancy agreement is signed and their tenancy fee paid. This should be returned to the Town Council at the end of their tenancy.

The Common Road allotment site is accessible on foot and access by car is via a padlocked gate. The code for the padlock is given to each new tenant once their tenancy agreement is signed and their tenancy fee paid. Tenants are asked not to give this number out to anyone other than relatives who regularly assist them with their plot.

7. Can I drive right up to my plot?

At the Common Road site, it is not possible to drive right up to your plot. There is a car park area in front of the plots.

At the Norton Road allotment site, not all plots can be driven right up to, as some plots are behind others. It is possible to drive up the main dirt track down the middle of the allotment site to unload tools, compost etc. from your car, but please ensure that you do not block the track to other users.

8. The plot is bigger than I first thought; can I share it with a friend?

There's nothing wrong with getting help from family and friends, but we expect that the plot holder will usually be the main contributor to the allotment.

The tenancy of the plot is in the name of the person or persons who originally signed the tenancy agreement and cannot be transferred to anyone else.

You must not sublet, assign or part with possession of the allotment plot or any part of it to anyone else.

9. The plot is getting a bit overgrown, is that ok?

You must keep your allotment clean, tidy, free from weeds and in a good state of cultivation and fertility as per. Section 2.3 of the tenancy agreement:

*"To keep the allotment garden clean free from weeds and well manured and otherwise maintain it **in a good state of cultivation and fertility** and good condition and to keep any pathway or track included therein or abutting therefore reasonably free from weeds"*

If this is not rectified, you will be in breach of your tenancy agreement and will be issued with 28 days notice to terminate your tenancy agreement.

If you are finding it difficult to maintain and cultivate your plot for any reason, then please contact Annette Dabner at Stotfold Town Council, on 01462 730064 or email: enquiries@stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk

If you don't tell us there is a problem and your plot becomes overgrown, we will contact you in writing and ask you to clear your plot within a designated time span, to ensure it doesn't become a problem for neighbouring plot holders. If your plot continues to remain uncultivated you would be advised in writing that your tenancy agreement will be terminated.

10. Can I attach a hosepipe to the tap to water my plot?

No, we ask that hosepipes are not attached to the standpipes to allow free access to the tap for all those who need water and ask tenants to be conscientious regarding their water usage. A water butt on your plot is recommended as it gives you close access to water for use on your plot.

11. Are there any things I shouldn't plant?

You must not plant any trees. Fruit bushes may be planted with the permission of the Town Council. Requests should include how many fruit bushes you would like to plant, what those bushes will be and the maximum height they will grow.

12. Can I have a shed or greenhouse on my plot?

You must not erect any structure on your plot without the written consent of the council. Any requests should include the structure size, as there are restrictions on the size of any shed or other structure on an allotment plot. Greenhouses must not be constructed of glass for health and safety reasons.

The storage of oil, fuel, lubricants or other inflammable liquids shall not be stored in any shed except in an approved container, maximum of 5 litres, for use in garden equipment only. Where plot holders have a structure on their plot we would strongly urge them to take out the appropriate insurance as the Council or Charity will not be held responsible for loss by accident, fire, theft or damage of any tools or contents in a shed.

13. How do I get rid of my rubbish?

You should be able to compost all your compostable waste on your plot. It is the responsibility of plot holders to remove any rubbish from their plots and dispose of responsibly at a local waste site. Allotment holders must not deposit or dump any rubbish on the allotment, or place any matter in the hedges, ditches or dykes situated on the allotments or the adjoining land.

14. Can I take my dog with me to the allotments?

Dogs on the allotment site must be kept on a lead at all times and all dog waste removed from the site.

15. A plot holder has regular bonfires near me and the smoke is a nuisance. What should I do?

Although there is no law against having a bonfire, and there are no set times during which bonfires can be lit, we would kindly request that allotment tenants consider the amount of smoke being produced from bonfires, ensuring that burning waste is from allotment use only. Please consider tenants in adjacent and surrounding plots and at the Common Road site adjoining residences on Common Road, plus the proximity of the main road (A507) to the Norton Road site. However, Bedfordshire Fire Brigade have asked that bonfires not be lit during the Covid pandemic, so please abide by that.

16. I have a problem with pests on my plants, can I use a spray?

When using sprays or fertilizers, you must take all reasonable care to ensure that adjoining hedges, trees crops and neighbouring plots are not adversely affected. Therefore, it is not advisable to spray on a windy day.

17. I saw someone walking about the allotments, making notes. Who can come onto allotment sites?

An officer of the council or authorized person (i.e. handyman/contractor) may enter and inspect any allotment plot at any time to carry out an inspection or investigate a query or complaint regarding the allotment.

18. I wish to stop renting my allotment. What do I do?

If you wish to terminate your tenancy please do so in writing to the council offices; stating your plot number and site and confirming that you wish to terminate your agreement.

If the allotment was rented by a family member who has passed away, please notify the Town Council. The allotment would then go for re-allocation to those on the waiting list.

19. Can the council terminate my allotment for any reason?

The tenancy of an allotment plot may be terminated by the council giving 28 days notice if:

- The rent any part thereof is in arrears for not less than forty days whether legally demanded or not or
- If it appears to the Council that there has been breach of the conditions and obligations on the part of the Tenant.