

ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL
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Opening times: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday – 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Dear All

Following the recent allotment committee meeting and the wonderful summer we have had, we thought it would be good time to send another newsletter to keep you all updated on the world of allotments.

Change of Lock Codes

The lock codes to the allotments will be changed on Wednesday 7th of November, so if you haven't managed to get in to pay your rent a little gentle reminder that you will need to do so before then. We do not want any of you having to climb the fence in your best dress!

Burning diseased/dying plants

It seems we have seen the end of the lovely hot summer, so no more Bikinis and sandals! With the colder weather setting in the ban has now been lifted on bonfires. Just a gentle reminder around the Rules and Regulations around having bonfires; only dying and diseased plants should be burnt within an incinerator bin and no other rubbish can be burnt including paper, wood, foam and plastic items. Bonfires in the winter months should be held after 4pm and due consideration taken if people are in their gardens or they have their windows open. We have received a number of reports of non-plant-based matter being burnt outside incinerators on allotment plots so please remember to take any other matter to the recycling centre. Please help your neighbour should they need help in taking their recycling to the centre

Footpaths

Just a little reminder that you are responsible for maintaining the footpath beside your plot, you have an obligation to keep it cut back and strimmed. Please note this also applies to plots that have been temporarily covered with weed suppressant if you have been unable to cultivate this year. We do still expect you to attend to your plot to ensure that weeds and roots etc are kept back under the covering and also the grass paths maintained by regularly cutting. We all know a well kept bush is far more attractive and keeps our neighbours happy! 😊

Plot Sizes

Please be aware that we will be re-measuring certain plots at Barlows Lane when we complete our next site visit. This is because we have had a few requests where plots seem to have decreased or increased in size.

Turning off Water at all sites

The water will be turned off at all site's week commencing the 4th of November as we are sure the frosts will have arrived by then, therefore, please arrange to make alternative arrangements for watering your plants and any permitted livestock.

Sunflowers & Pumpkins

This year we judged the Sunflower Competition on the 22nd August and had 3 entries. We would like to say a big thank you to the people that kindly entered from very tall, to dwarf varieties which was great fun. Certificate's will be sent out shortly. So hopefully we have more of enteries next year. In respect of the Pumpkin competition we sadly did not had any entries. We appreciate that some pumpkins grew quickly this year and haven't lasted due to the hot period. We are more than happy for you to enter and send us a photo of your Pumpkins if this will help next year. We look forward to everyone getting into the spirit and entering the competition.

Site Visits

Following on from the busy invoicing period it has been a wonderful couple of months getting to meet you all in the office, you have all definitely made it an enjoyable time. However, we are now coming to the end of invoicing and we plan to get back out to the various sites on Wednesday's to do our site visits and inspections.

Apologies, if we've not got back to you if you've raised anything when paying for your allotments. We are working our way through our to do lists, feel free to give us a nudge if we have missed you.

Warden roles

Although, wardens are very happy to be the first point of call there will be occasions when the matter needs to come straight to the office. If you feel your concerns need the response to come from the Allotment Officers please can we ask you contact us in the first instance and not the wardens – thank you.

Late Payment Reminder

Just a gentle reminder that we are still missing a few of your payments for the period September 2018 to August 2019. If for any reason you have any difficulty paying for your allotment this year please call either Kelly or Fern on 01264 335592.

Alternatively, if it's just slipped your mind please can you forward the payment to us as soon as possible or pop in the office we are always happy to see you. We can now accept payment via debit or credit card (and over the phone).

Security on Allotments

Security issues were raised in the recent Allotment Committee meeting. The Committee agreed that the gate code locks need to be changed at least every 6 months or sooner if needed i.e. the lock is broken. Trespassing signs have been placed on gates at known problem sites to try and prevent incidents happening. Please make sure the gates are locked at all times whether on site or leaving the site and that the code is never left visible. We have had a number of reports during the summer period of gates and sheds etc being broken into and items being stolen. All incidents reported to Andover Town Council have been reported to the police and Crime Reference Numbers provided and we would like to thank the individuals that have reported incidents. The Police are fully aware of what has been happening and recently contacted the allotment officers for more information so the

good news is they are acting on what we have all been providing them with. We are also in contact with the Police regarding 'Crime Prevention' to see if they can provide the allotment officers and holders with further information on keeping possessions safe, we will contact you again once we have further details.

Dumping Rubbish

There has been an increase of people dumping rubbish on vacant plots. The rubbish in question is usually items such as broken glass and general rubbish, wooden sheds and pallets. As members of the public you can take it to the recycling centre for free. Please can we ask that you work together and remove this type of rubbish yourselves. It costs the Town Council to pay a contractor to remove this type of rubbish and we do not want to have to increase allotment charges to cover these costs. Unfortunately, once one person starts dumping rubbish on vacant plots others follow suit and the situation soon spirals. So please be responsible of disposing of your own rubbish at the local tip. Again, if anybody sees rubbish being put on a vacant plot or finds rubbish on one of their plots please report it to the allotment officers as soon as possible so we can investigate and take the necessary action.

Available Allotments

With the new season upon us, we have had a few of our wonderful allotment holders leave us. This means we now have a few more available allotments plots. Please chat to friends and family and spread the word to the welly wearers of the world that they too can grow their own wonky veg! (that has given us a thought I think we could have a competition for the best wonky veg next year!)



Allotment Shows/Donating Surplus veg

One or two of the allotment sites hold their own shows and BBQ's. We have had a few of you suggest holding a social event. If this is something you wish to do we are happy to send out emails etc but you need to arrange it and advise us so we can help you organise it and send out invites. We do also know that certain food banks do not take fresh produce, however we are told the crisis team will, so please let us know and we can arrange to make good use of any surplus veg you may have.

Insurance

If you do not already have insurance for your allotment and possessions please note you can contact the "National Allotment Association" and join for a very affordable cost.

Emails

Those of you that are happy to receive updates/newsletters etc by email please update us with your correct email address if you have not received them of late. Please also check your junk box as we have several issues whereby emails have been sent and not received. They have later been found in junk boxes. You will need to open the email and then future emails will be accepted by your server. Also, just to let you know that Kelly and Ferns email addresses are as follows allotmentofficer1@andoverc.co.uk (Fern) allotmentofficer2@andoverc.co.uk (Kelly) should you wish to contact us. Please note that our old email address andovercallotments@gmail.com is no longer in use so please do not send emails to this address.

Kind Regards
Fern Long & Kelly Matthews
Allotment Officers