



Andover Town Council

To **consider** rule 3.12 of the Rules and Regulations for Allotment Tenants – 2023 which forbids dogs on sites.

Item
No.
10

Produced for: Allotments Committee

By: Town Clerk.

Date of Report: 18 Oct 2023

Background:

There have been questions over the “no dogs” rule from different tenants on different sites.

3.12. Dogs

- 3.12.1. Dogs are not permitted on the Allotment Site except for an assistance dog that must be kept under control at all times.

OLD WINTON ROAD.

A tenant has questioned if the Rules and Regulations may be relaxed, and is offering to help. His Suggestion is:

I have given our conversation some thought, and I would be grateful for your thoughts and also thank you for sharing this:

As I stated I would be very keen to put myself forward as a sort of enforcer of any rules the council sees fit in allowing dogs onto the allotments. Obviously, there would be rules/guidance to abide by and I think a small test would be useful in either confounding or dispelling any worries that has historically been voiced up to this point.

General rules (as a starter to consider:)

- Dogs to be on leads at all times during a visit to the allotments including to and from plots*
- Dogs to be tethered on a plot so as not able to reach neighbouring plots. i.e short tethers.*
- Two dogs maximum at any one visit*
- Owners' dogs only*
- Well behaved dogs only please*
- Always clean up after your dog and take all waste away from site*

I would caveat that anyone found to be not following the rules that dogs will be excluded from further access to their plot whilst rented by them. Furthermore this may also affect others from being allowed access also.

It would be great to trial this, as you know I am in favour of having our furry friends with us whilst we work on our plots. I think you may be surprised at the good response that this could bring. During any test period i am happy to patrol (with my dog - she's rubbish at chasing down crooks, but I am sure she will assist in some way) and help spread the word and reiterate and enforce any rules stipulated by you. I would report back to you any rule breakers or concerns during this period. Also going forward I would be happy to include other allotment sites to the same effect.

BARLOWS LANE.

A tenant has written in specifically after the last Allotment Committee meeting asking that Councillors consider deleting rule 3.12.1 from the Rules and Regulations. The Tenant has written:

Application to Delete Rule 3.12.1 – Dogs - from Regulations for Allotment Tenants2023.

Reference:

A. Discussion at Allotments Committee Meeting 28 Sep23.

After a discussion at Reference A, I was advised by the Chairman to submit this, my application, to have the rule which does not allow dogs on allotments, deleted from the rules.

I would like in the first instance declare that I do not own a dog, so I have no 'vested interest' in having this rule changed. Having been on my plot for about 21 years, I have in the past, when rules were relaxed, noted that several plot holders brought dogs onto their plots. They were and are responsible dog owners who secure their dogs upon reaching the plot and carry plastic bags for any mess that may be caused. In all of my time as a tenant, I have not had a dog related problem. (I can't say that for other people's children)!

Please can consideration be given to deleting this rule, or changing it to: 'Dogs are allowed on the allotment, however should a complaint be made to, and be upheld by the Council, The plot holder will be banned from bringing their dog to the plot'.

I know that dog owners are very upset about this rule being enforced, indeed it is rumoured that a tenant at Barlows Lane will be giving up their plot because of it! I believe this situation has been caused by a lapse of rule enforcement by the previous regimes and I do not believe this will create upset to current management, other than it is a rule they legally do not have to enforce. Hence this submission.

I would like to thank the Committee for considering this submission and look forward to hearing your response in due course.

Councillors may find it useful to revisit a list of what are thought to be the original reasons for imposing the dog ban to see if the concerns still apply.

- The potential of dog mess being left on communal areas or plots belonging to other people
- Dogs digging on other people's plots.
- Dogs running onto other people's plots and knocking over their delicate plants.

- Some people or children being scared of dogs.
- Some people being allergic to dogs.
- Potential running around and chasing if two dogs are on site at the same time.
- Noise nuisance if dogs bark at each other.
- As children are allowed on site, there is a safety issue regarding how a dog might react to a child's behaviour.
- The Council will not be insured for any incidents caused by dogs as they are not under the Council's control.

Proposal from Tenants:

1. That Council approve the deletion of Rule 3.12.1 in its entirety.

If this motion fails, to consider:

2. That Council approve the modification of Rule 3.12.1 to read:

- 3.12.1 - Dogs to be on leads at all times during a visit to the allotments including to and from plots.*
- 3.12.2 - Dogs to be tethered on a plot so as not able to reach neighbouring plots. i.e short tethers.*
- 3.12.3 - Two dogs maximum at any one visit*
- 3.12.4 - Tenants' dogs only*
- 3.12.5 - Well behaved dogs are permitted. Jumping, Barking and Whining are not tolerated.*
- 3.12.6 - Dog mess must be immediately cleaned up and disposed of off site.*
- 3.12.7- If complaints are received about a dog, this will be investigated and the Tenant may have their permission to bring a dog to the site withdrawn.*
- 3.12.8 - Before bringing a dog to the Allotment Site, the Tenant must provide the Town Council with a copy of their Public Liability insurance for the dog(s) in question. This will be kept on file and a list of authorised dogs will be posted on the Town Council website, listed by plot number. Failure to provide a copy of insurance will result in the dogs being banned from site and possible eviction of the Tenant.*

3. If the above motion passes, to consider if a "Dog Warden" should be appointed, and who should write the Term of Reference.