



Andover Town Council

To **consider** correspondence received from a tenant at Barlows Lane in relation to Dogs on sites.

Item
No.
12

Produced for: Allotments Committee

By: Town Clerk

Date of Report: 1 Feb 2024

Background:

The Committee reviewed the request for Dogs on Sites in the October 2023 meeting.

A letter was hand delivered to the office by the tenant.

Officers are not sure if/when it was passed on to Councillor K Hughes.

When the tenant chased officers for an answer, it was explained that the unopened letter may have gone astray. The tenant was asked for an electronic version so that it could quickly be provided to the Chairman.

The tenant has emailed this version.

Chairman Allotment Committee
Andover Town Council

DOGS ON ALLOTMENTS SITES

At the meeting on 21 September a gentlemen raised the issue of dogs on allotment sites.

He expressed his concern that the "Regulations/Rules" had not been considered for many years, and quoted a conversation with a Lady allotment holder who was considering giving up her Plot if she could not bring her companion with her.

It appears that the rules/regulations regarding dogs has not been addressed since the current Policies were initiated !

Many years ago, dogs were not controlled and roamed freely, hence the term mungerals, who just roamed the streets uncontrolled.

We as a society have moved on! The vast majority of pet dogs NOW are well controlled, trained and their owners are WELL aware of their responsibilities with regard to dog ownership, principally with regard to control and responsibility to cleaning up of their dog excreta.

From my experience at our site Dogs are not an issue !

However, I am, AND other dog owner are aware of the fact that NOT ALL Plot holder share our view !

From my personal experience, I consulted both Plot holders to my left and right and asked if they had any objection to my dog being tethered to my shed whilst I maintained my plot. I did add that she would be on a SHORT lead from the entry to the site until she reached my shed. IF she were to need to relieve herself then I carry POOP bags to clear the mess.

Should one of my neighbours leave and give up their plot and the new incumbent was not comfortable with dogs, then I would endeavour to alternate visits in order not to cause conflict.

In my opinion and that of other plot holders, the control of dogs should be devolved to the Wardens of sites. They have an intimate knowledge of the site the Plot AND PERSONALITES THAT OCCUPY THEM.

Should an individual plot holder not control their dog or cause concern to other plot holders, the warden should make them aware of the situation and if there is no improvement advise the Town Council to inform the individual that they are NO longer permitted to bring their dog to the Site.

This is a Win - Win situation for all. If the Guidance does not work "by individual site", revert to the current Rules/Regulations, NO Dogs on the **affected site.**

Proposals:

To delegate the response to the tenant to be carried out by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Chairman of the Allotment Committee.