



# Andover Town Council

To **review** an allotment request and **instruct** Officers how to proceed.

Item  
No.

**Produced for:**  
Allotments Committee

**By:** Allotment Officer

**Date of Report:** 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## Background:

Tenants have recently reported that a plot holder has been bringing a dog onto the Barlows Lane allotment site. As a result, an email reminder was sent to the individual. Under current Rules and Regulations, dogs are not permitted on allotment sites unless they are assistance dogs. This matter had previously been raised by the same tenant and was reviewed by the Allotments Committee in February 2024. At that time, it was decided that no exceptions would be made to the existing rule. However, it has since come to light that the outcome of the Committee's decision was not communicated to the tenant following the review.

## Letter response from the Chairman to the Tenant sent 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025:

Thank you for your recent email regarding your request to have your dog accompany you on your allotment plot.

I understand that you originally submitted this request last year. I would like to clarify that it was reviewed by the Allotment Committee in February 2024, where it was agreed that there would be no exceptions to the existing rule regarding dogs on site.

Unfortunately, due to an oversight, the previous Town Clerk did not inform you of the outcome of that review, and I apologise for the delay in getting back to you with a formal response.

I appreciate that you've offered assurances that your dog would be kept on a lead and remain within the boundaries of your plot. However, I must advise that under the current Allotment Rules and Regulations (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), dogs are not permitted on site under any circumstances, unless they are a certified assistance dog. These rules are in place to ensure the comfort and safety of all allotment holders and to prevent potential issues related to noise, hygiene, and interactions with other plot holders or wildlife. While we understand and value responsible pet ownership, we must apply the same rules fairly to all tenants to maintain consistency across the sites.

The Committee's decision reinforces this, and no exceptions can be made at this time.

Thank you for your understanding, and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

## Letter response from Tenant received 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025:

I did not intend to seek specific dispensation for my dog to accompany to my plot, rather the greater issue of dogs on allotment sites.

I don't know when the rules relating to dogs were initiated, but suspect it was many years ago, when society was considerably different than now and control of dogs was poor.

The vast majority of dog owners these days are responsible, keep their dogs under control on leads when necessary and clean up their dogs mess. Where in the past dogs were ferial and ran around the streets and park areas freely and not controlled.

In your letter you state that the rules are in place to ensure the comfort and safety of plot holders and to prevent such issues as **noise, hygiene, interactions** with other plot holders and **wildlife**:  
Let's look at these issues one at a time:

**Noise.** Barlows Lane allotments has a border with the public pathway from Anton Mill car park leading to the generous parkland. Whilst at the plot we are exposed continually during the day to dogs barking on the pathway to the park, in addition the houses within Watermills estate which back directly on to the allotment site and have dogs which also bark considerably!

**Hygiene.** As mentioned above most dog owners are responsible, meticulous, have children families and **Clean** up after their pet. When out walking they continue to be responsible and are aware of the need to clean up after their pet and use the bins provided. The only hygiene issue we have on our plots is that a considerable number of Cats from Water Mills and Barlows Lane continually use our plots as their toilet !

**Wild Life/other Plot Holders.** Interactions with wild life is **NIL** discounting pigeon's, crows and occasional rats. Interactions with other plot holders is totally voluntary! i.e either they required to ask to come on the plot. They are advised that a dog is present prior to their entrance, or they meet them on the pathway, whilst they are on a short lead. Apart from the walk to the plot from the gate other plot holders have no contact.

I would like to think that in this day and age, public committees are '**progressive**' and **amenable to accommodate the wishes on their community.**

As I mentioned in my previous submission a year or so ago I contacted the National Allotment Association, who stated that they have **NO OBJECTION** to owners having their dogs on allotment plots.

Dogs are permitted in Pubs, restaurants. Shops, where there appear to be **NO HYGIENE** issues. Further they are permitted to walk with their owners on and of lead in public places such as the Town Centre , and the market when it is I town. There are no restrictions on walking dog in All parks, pubic area and sports areas !

From my consultations with plot holders, a number have a pet dog (usually a small breed) which is their only companion ! and a number have given up plots, others are considering the same as they are unable to bring their companion with them. In effect they are Sudo assistance dogs !

My proposal would be to leave rules as they are: should their be an incident when an irresponsible dog owner causes issues, and a formal complaint is made, they should be dealt with on an individual basis and informed **THEIR** dog is not permitted on the site.

In conclusion, from my perspective and the 40 Plot holders on my site of Barlows Lane Allotments have **NO OBJECTION** to any dog which is responsibly managed. I found, NOT One plot holder who objected to dogs moving down the central track to plots on short leads !

I am sure that consideration could be given that the current Rules could berevised/re-written allowing dogs on Allotment Sites with strict criteria as to behaviour of the dog and the owner and consequences of not being able to control their dog.

If/Should an individual states that they have seen a dog on their site ! ask ! did in **interfere** with you or your plot, causing a Noise, Hygiene or Wild Life issues.

On behalf of current and previous dog owners of Barlows Lane allotments.

**Consideration:**

To **review** an allotment request and **instruct** Officers how to proceed.