

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Andover Town Council</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">To <b>discuss</b> and <b>decide</b> on the use of soaker hoses and sprinklers for future hosepipe restrictions. To <b>decide</b> if bonfire restrictions can be lifted.</p>	<p>Item No.</p>
<p><b>Produced for:</b> Allotments Committee</p>	<p><b>By:</b> Allotment Officer</p>	<p><b>Date of Report:</b> 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025</p>

<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>Following Southern Water’s announcement of hosepipe restrictions effective from Monday, 21 July 2025, an email was sent to all tenants on 17 July 2025 directing them to the update on Southern Water’s website. The advice by Southern Water advised, at the time, was:</p> <p><b>“Can I water my allotment or vegetable patch?</b>  <i>You can still use a hosepipe to water an allotment or vegetable patch but where possible we would encourage you to think about using water wisely and use a watering can, if you are able to.</i></p> <p><b>I have an allotment, can I still water my crops with a hosepipe?</b>  <i>Yes, a hosepipe can be used to water food crops at domestic premises or private allotments, where this cannot be done via a watering can.”</i></p> <p>The email also requested that tenants refrain from lighting any bonfires until the restrictions are lifted.</p>
<p><b>Soaker hoses and sprinklers:</b></p> <p>Tenants and Wardens have raised concerns about the use of soaker hoses and sprinklers during hosepipe restrictions and have asked whether these should be prohibited in future hosepipe restrictions. These devices occupy taps for extended periods, preventing others from using them, and the volume of water consumed is contrary to the intent of the restrictions.</p>
<p><b>Bonfires:</b></p> <p>As the ground is now sufficiently damp, the use of bonfires may resume.</p>
<p><b>Consideration:</b></p> <p>To <b>discuss</b> and <b>decide</b> on the use of soaker hoses and sprinklers for future hosepipe restrictions.  To <b>decide</b> if bonfire restrictions can be lifted.</p>