Andover Town Council

To **review** a request for a large water storage container.
To **instruct** Officers on how to proceed.

Item No.

5

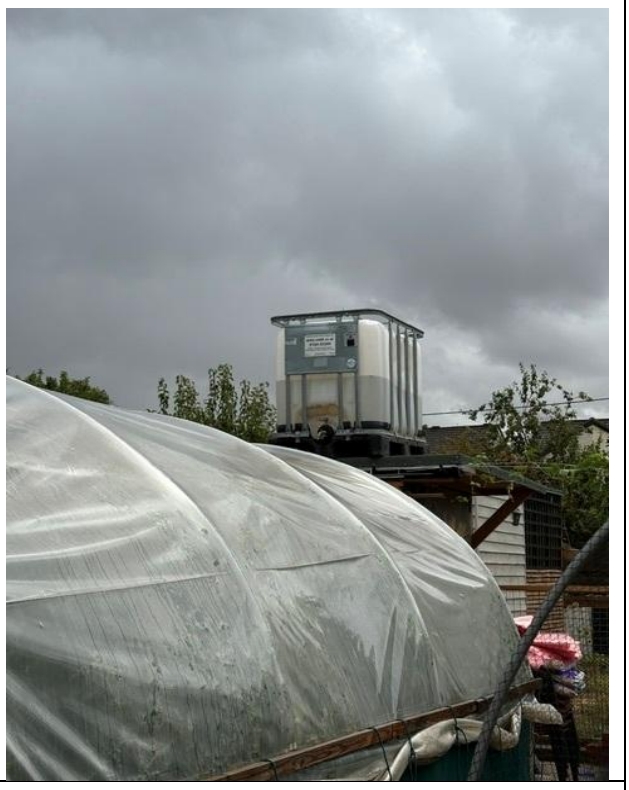
Produced for: Allotments Committee	**By:** Allotment Officer	**Date of Report:** 4 September 2026

Background:

During plot inspections, it was noted that a plot holder had erected a large water storage container on top of their shed. No permission had been sought from the Town Council, and the tenant was subsequently asked to remove the water storage container from the plot.
It is believed that this has now prompted a request from another tenant to install a similar water storage container on their plot.

Photos of water storage container:





Email to tenant on 27 August 2026 from Officer:

I am writing regarding the large water storage container that has been installed on your plot.
While water butts are permitted on allotment plots, they are intended to collect and store rainwater. This structure is considerably larger than a standard water butt and raises concerns about both its size and nature.

It also raises questions about the source of the water and how the container is being filled, particularly during the current hosepipe restrictions. Allowing a structure of this kind could also set a precedent for similar installations on other plots.
Given these concerns, and the potential Health and Safety implications for neighbouring tenants and other site users, we are asking that the container is removed as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for your prompt cooperation.

Request from another plot holder 28 August 2026:

I meant to say a 1000l ibc container not those industrial big tanks that farmers use. I have seen multiple on other allotments on the Vigo site .

The plan was to fill the container with buckets during a hosepipe ban . I think this would be reasonable as we would only be watering food producing plants and plan to irrigate via individual drip lines to each plant .wed be able to measure water used and effectively not over water .

The plan was to refill the containers before a ban and if we needed more water during one we'd fill with a bucket and not a hosepipe .

I was under the impression an allotment was for food production and under the hosepipe ban rules you could still use it for vegetables as its food production
Obviously I have concerns about putting in vegetables to have them all die over something preventable. Obviously you don't make the rules so I completely understand if my request cannot be met .

Email response from Officer on 03 September 2026:

Thank you for clarifying.

Although an IBC is smaller than the large agricultural tanks you mentioned, 1,000 litres is still a significant amount of water compared with a standard water butt, which is one of our concerns. You are correct that Southern Water allows an exemption for watering edible produce where using a watering can is not reasonably practicable. They advise that if you can reasonably and safely water your allotment using a watering can, this should be done to help conserve water. However, where this is not reasonably practicable due to the size of the plot or accessibility needs, a hosepipe can still be used.

You mentioned seeing multiple 1,000-litre containers on the Vigo Road site. If you are happy to provide me with the plot numbers, I can check these. We have already contacted tenants where we are aware of larger water storage containers and asked them to remove them.

As this is a wider issue, the use of larger water storage containers will also be discussed at the next Allotments Committee meeting, and I will update you following the meeting.

Recommendation:

To **review** a request for a large water storage container.
To **instruct** Officers on how to proceed.