



Environment and Sustainability Policy

Introduction

This policy addresses what is and is not acceptable on Harts Green Garden in order to promote and encourage wildlife and care for the local environment.

Supporting Wildlife

We encourage and promote the use of

- bird/bat/hedgehog houses.
- supplementary feeding of garden birds, especially during the winter and spring.
- wildlife friendly gardening.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Water

In line with the sustainability policy, Hart District Council encourages plot holders to collect water to be used on plots. Individuals may position water butts on their plot, however, they must be situated so that they do not negatively impact adjoining plot holders e.g. shade, overflowing of butts

The Tenant shall have consideration at all times for other tenants when extracting water from water points.

Individual plot holders may use hoses/syphons on their own plots however these must under no circumstances ever be used on the water troughs.

Troughs must be kept clean and uncontaminated in order to preserve the water system. No vegetables or tools should not be washed in the troughs.

Strictly no bathing in the troughs.

Composting

The large composting bays at the top of the site are for Hart Countryside Service use only.

Tenants will be permitted to use the compost produced in these bays and dates will be given when this becomes available.

In line with the sustainability statement, Hart District Council encourages plot holders to compost green refuse on their own plots. Individuals may position composting bins on their plot if desired. However, they must be situated so that they do not negatively impact adjoining plot holders e.g. shade.

Hart District Council has teamed up with Getcomposting.com to offer home compost bins at special offer prices from only £22.50 (RRP £39). To see what's available, visit

www.getcomposting.com or call 0844 571 4444.

Diseased or infected plants (such as plants infected with potato/tomato blight) must not be disposed of in composting bins as this could affect the quality of the compost and destroy future crops. The diseased or infected plants must be put into plastic bags so as not to spread the disease and removed from the site for further disposal (such as burning or putting into the refuse bins). Plot holders are requested to notify the committee of any plant diseases they encounter.

Peat based composts are banned. Please see the Sustainability and Environmental Commitment for more information.

All non-compostable waste shall be removed from the plot by the Tenant.

Bonfires /Fires/Incinerators/Chimineas

Due to health and safety reasons, (risk of burning, drifting of smoke, environmental issues) Individual bonfires are not permitted on the site.

The use of incinerators (and other stoves/chimineas or other forms of open fire or outdoor heating) are prohibited.

Disposable BBQ's are banned as these do not comply with the Sustainability and Environmental Commitment.

Hart District Council will consider requests for open fires. But no unauthorised fires are permitted on Hart's Green Garden.

Cooking

Small Charcoal BBQs (with lids)

Tenants are permitted to use small charcoal BBQs on their own plots provided that due consideration is given to other tenants present at the time (regarding drifting of smoke etc). Only BBQs that have a lid (or metal cover) may be used (so that it can be closed/covered if it starts to spark and pose a risk to others or their property). The BBQ must be attended at all times, and it must be fully extinguished after use. Hot coals must not be disposed of near any combustible materials (e.g. near sheds, pallets etc), they must be kept on the tenant's own plot until cool. Spent coals must be removed from the site and must not be discarded at any place within Harts Green Garden. Matches and firelighters may be used to light the BBQ and these may be stored on site as long as they are stored in a suitable metal container (such as a tin). BBQ coals may be stored out of sight on the site. Flammable liquids must not be used to light the BBQ. (The use of flammable liquids on BBQs is considered to be too dangerous and if stored on site could provide easy fuel for vandals). Gas BBQs are permitted but after use gas bottles must be removed from the appliance and must not be kept on site.

Camping stoves

Small butane or propane gas camping stoves may be used on site. After each use the gas must be turned off at the bottle. For security and safety reasons gas bottles must not be kept

on site.

Safety measures

Tenants who perform any cooking on site (charcoal BBQs as well as camping stoves) are required to have a supply of water on hand (such as a full watering can) or a fire extinguisher BEFORE lighting the appliance/BBQ. The cooking equipment must be placed on a solid, level non-combustible surface so that if the equipment topples over it will not ignite combustible materials nearby such as sheds/dry grasses etc. Tenants must be vigilant at all times during and after use (in the case of hot coals) and take appropriate emergency procedures quickly if the fire gets out of control.

Tenants are responsible for the equipment in use and are responsible for other family/tenants in attendance at the time. It is recommended that tenants also bring a supply of fresh water with them and/or a first aid box which can be used to immediately treat any burns that may be sustained.

Use and storage of chemicals & flammable liquids.

Hart District Council strongly discourages the use of potentially harmful chemicals on plots and promotes organic alternatives (such as non-toxic slug pellets). Only commercially available products from garden or horticultural suppliers shall be used for the control of pests, diseases or vegetation.

When using any sprays or fertilizers the Tenant must:

- take all reasonable care to ensure that adjoining hedges, trees and crops are not adversely affected and must make good or replant as necessary should any damage occur and
- select and use chemicals, whether for spraying, seed dressing or for any other purpose whatsoever, that will cause the least harm to members of the public, game birds and other wildlife, other than vermin or pests and
- comply at all times with current legislation on the use of such sprays and fertilizer.

The storage of chemicals and fertilizers on site (either inside or outside of sheds/buildings) is not permitted.

Oil, fuel, lubricants or other inflammable liquids may be used on site but shall not be stored in any shed or container or left on site.

Plant Approvals/Restrictions and Trees

The Tenant shall not without the written consent of the Council cut or prune any trees, apart from carrying out the recognised pruning practices of fruit trees.

The Tenant shall not plant any trees other than dwarf fruiting trees and or fruiting bushes without the prior consent of the Council.

Hart District Council needs to ensure that items planted on plots will not have a negative effect on the surrounding area. For this reason, non-native plants will not be permitted (e.g. Rhododendrons, Bamboo etc).

The Tenant shall not plant any trees other than dwarf fruiting trees and or fruiting bushes without the prior consent of Hart District Council.

No tree or fruiting bush may be taller than 6 feet/2 meters high, should be kept pruned so as not to stick out over plot boundaries and must not be planted within 1 meter of any adjoining plot to avoid shading. Tenant shall not without the written consent of Hart District Council cut or prune any trees, apart from carrying out the recognised pruning practices of fruit trees.

Hedges, Paths and Fences

The Tenant shall keep every hedge that forms part of the boundary of their plot properly cut and trimmed, all pathways between plots trimmed and well maintained by each adjoining tenant, keep all ditches properly cleansed, maintained and keep in repair any other fences, gates or sheds on their plot.

Public paths and haulage ways (roads) must be kept clear at all times.

All paths must be kept a minimum of 1 meter wide according to the Equality and Diversity Act 2010

Manure

The tenant must cover any manure on which has not been dug in.

Overnight Sleeping/Camping

No overnight sleeping or camping is permitted at any place on the site.

Rubbish and Refuse

The Tenant shall not deposit or allow other persons to deposit on the plot any rubbish, refuse or any decaying matter (except manure and compost in such quantities as may reasonably be required for use in cultivation) or place any matter in the land, hedges, ditches or dykes in or surrounding the Community Garden.

All non-compostable waste shall be removed from the Allotment Site by the Tenant. The Tenant shall not deposit or allow other persons to deposit on Harts Green Garden any rubbish, refuse or any decaying matter (except manure and compost in such quantities as may reasonably be required for use in cultivation) or place any matter in the hedges, ditches or dykes in or surrounding the site.

Hard Landscaping Materials

Hard landscaping materials are not permitted on plot with the exception of slabs (made of materials such as concrete) that may be used for the base for a shed or greenhouse. Other hard landscaping materials such as gravel/shingle are not permitted due to the associated removal problems.

The Tenant shall not utilise carpets or underlay on the plot. The use of carpets on the plot (perhaps as a weed suppressant) is not allowed due to toxic chemicals that could leech out of the carpet and contaminate the soil. Weed suppressant capillary matting material is advised.

Vermin

Any incidence of vermin on the site must be reported to Hart District Council.

Unused Allotments

Hart District Council will endeavor to plant wildflowers/insect attracting/pollinating plants on any long-term vacant plots.

Policy Implementation

Hart District Council will appoint a member of the Management Committee to oversee this policy.

Enforcement

Regular checks will be made to ensure compliance inline with the inspection schedual.