



## **IMPORTANT PLEASE READ**

### **THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **ALLOTMENT SITE CLUBS**

The Council are well into their schedule of allotment inspections and are pleased to report that there has been significant progress made to address breaches on some plots. The Allotment Committee understand that this is a considerable task that requires co-operation between the council and allotment holders and are willing to invest time and funding to improve the condition of allotment sites.

The Committee are in the process of formulating an Allotment Policy which will attempt to improve communication between itself and allotment holders through the development of Allotment Clubs. Promotion of social interaction and co-operation will be the emphasis, drawing on the policies adopted by The National Allotment Society, of which the council is a member.

The Council wish to encourage the creation of democratic allotments clubs who meet regularly, discuss issues and bring those issues to an informal meeting with members of the Allotment Committee. If appropriate these issues may then be included on the following Allotment Committee meeting agenda held on a quarterly basis.

The formal Allotment Committee meeting would continue to have a 15 minute open forum where the public, including allotment holders and clubs can speak.

The clubs would be expected to do the following:

- Be properly constituted with an elected committee;
- Be a member of an appropriate body i.e. The National Allotment Society;
- Provide a list of member plots to indicate representation;
- Hold public meetings regularly; quarterly perhaps to start, reducing to bi-annually once the main issues are addressed;
- Produce an agenda and minutes of their meetings with recommendations for discussion with the Allotment Committee;
- Liaise between the council and allotments holders on issues such as non-compliance of rules and regulations;

- Provide support and advice to both the tenants and the Council;
- Provide advice to new allotment holders and help them understand the rules and their purpose;
- The committee to lead by example by upholding the rules.

The type of issues that could be discussed by the Clubs and recommended to the Committee are:

- Discussion of rules and regulations, their purpose, recommendations for change, new rules (maybe consideration of 10 rules per quarter to make the task manageable);
- Plot sizes, waiting lists, deposits and fees;
- Financing of provision of allotments;
- Community access and security;
- Cultivation standards;
- Environmental issues;
- Sharing allotments;
- Social interaction;
- Devolved management;
- Other forms of gardening;
- Site representatives, mentoring and training;
- Problems experienced by sites and possible solutions i.e. rats, clearance of surrendered plots, maintenance, health and safety;
- A presentation to promote the benefits of allotments at the Annual Town Meeting;
- A yearly social event where council and tenants come together.

There could be an allotment club for each site or one club can support a number of smaller sites. If you wish to create a club or if you have an existing clubs who would be willing to provide this valued service to the Council please contact us as detailed below.

More detail will follow shortly and meanwhile the Committee encourage questions and constructive advice on this matter.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. Should you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the Council on 01842 754247, or by email on [mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) or in writing to King's House, King Street, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2AT. Website: [www.thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Thetford Town Council Allotment Committee

14<sup>th</sup> May 2018