

Barton upon Humber Allotment Society

Health and Safety Statement

(October 2022)

Although we do not have a specific Health and Safety document, the ***Plot and Site Maintenance Rules*** document identifies potential hazards which may compromise the safety of individuals on the allotment site. Statements in bold italics are taken from this document.

Members are encouraged to report any potential hazards to a member of the Committee and the Site Manager monitors the site at regular intervals. The Site Manager reports to the Committee at their monthly meeting at which Health and Safety matters are discussed, and any necessary issues are addressed accordingly.

“Plots and the site will be monitored on a regular basis by the Site Manager who will report findings to the Management Committee meetings.”

Information can be disseminated to plot holders via a variety of means, such as the Society’s website, Facebook or through messages left on the communal shed noticeboard.

The following is a summary of matters pertaining to Health and Safety as documented in the Plot and Maintenance rules.

Cultivation. “The plot holder is to ensure that their plot is well cultivated and maintained.”

This requires the plot holder to maintain the plot in a manner conducive to the safety of plot holders – ensuring that there are no hazards such as uneven ground, for example.

Illness. “If a plot holder is unable to maintain this standard for medical or other extenuating circumstances, they should advise the site manger as soon as possible.”

In such circumstances the Committee will ensure that steps are taken to ensure that the plot is adequately maintained and safe.

Invasive plants. “Invasive or illegal plants are not to be grown on plots (eg Japanese Knotweed, Cannabis etc.)”

Indicates the importance of only growing crops which can be safely cultivated and are legal in the UK.

Safe access. “The plot holder is responsible for maintaining a path to the North side of their plot”

The path should be reasonably level and maintained to a satisfactory width. It should be safe to use and free of obstructions.

Fences. (Adjacent to plots). *“Fences should be no higher than 1 metre (3ft 3 ins), be well maintained and allow for easy passage of a wheelbarrow”*

Safe access.

Dangerous materials. *“In the interests of safety, neither glass nor barbed wire are to be used on any plot”*

Prohibits the use of sharp or brittle materials.

Bonfires. *“Bonfires which endanger crops in adjoining plots or fields must not be lit”*

“Please be considerate to your fellow plot holders when lighting a fire”

“Bonfires must not be lit on the central roadway”

Regulation of waste burning. During periods of excessive drought or particularly dry weather the Committee may prohibit the lighting of fires due to the danger of fires spreading through dry vegetation.

Maintenance. *“Rubbish is not to be deposited on the site. Plot holders are to dispose of refuse from their plot in a responsible manner. Roads, ditches and hedge bottoms must be kept clean.”*

Importance of maintaining a tidy and safe allotment and considering the importance of environmental issues.

Children on site. *“Children are welcome on site but must be under the supervision of a plot holder”*

Child protection and general safety.

Animals. *Dogs are allowed on site but must be on a leash and under the strict control of the plot holder.”*

Assuring the safety of both plot holders and their dogs.

Buildings and structures. *“Sheds and other substantial property purchased for use on a plot should be notified to the Site Manager”*

“They are to be used for general gardening purposes only.”

In order that the Site Manager may assess the suitability and safety of any structures which are being erected, and to monitor their use.

Security. *“In the interests of security the gates should be closed after entering or leaving the site from 1st December to 28th February. From 1st March to 30th November the gates can be left open during daylight hours. The last vehicle out must shut both gates.”*

Mitigating the probability of trespass by individuals unfamiliar with the site and its potential hazards.

Reviewed February 2025