

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

ON BEST PRACTICE AND A SHORT SUMMARY OF THE RULES

NOTES

Paying your rent - the rent for all allotments is due at the beginning of January each year and must be paid by the middle of February or your plot may be at risk. You can pay by cash or cheque payable to *East Finchley Allotment Holders Association Ltd*:

- at the trading shed on Sunday mornings between 11am and 1pm from early January

Manure deliveries - only deliveries of horse manure from Bury Farm, Edgware (tel: 020 8958 2932) are allowed along the narrow left hand road (B and C plots). Other suppliers may deliver to the other plots.

Toilets – always make sure the toilet is left clean after use. Don't put extra water or chemicals or rubbish down: they spoil the composting process.

Rats live on the site. Don't leave rubbish or food scraps lying about: it gives them nesting places and easy pickings. Don't put cooked food or meat in the compost bin.

Plot numbers – put up a label with your plot number on the front of your plot to help everyone find their way around. Paint on a flowerpot will do!

If you're next to a **fence or ditch**, please check the fence for damage and the ditch for blockages regularly, Keep the ditch edges clear and tell a committee member about any problems.

We get **break-ins** from time to time so don't keep machinery or valuable items in your shed because of the risk of theft. Always keep your valuables with you or locked in your shed while you're on the site.

If there's a **break-in** and items are stolen from your shed or there's damage, you will need to call the police yourself – phone 101 first, then tell a committee member. We can't report the crime for you.

If you find the '**danger weeds**' Himalayan Balsam or Japanese Knotweed - pictures on the notice board - please check the notice to see what to do.

Problems or complaints – contact the admin manager if you have any problems: Cathy Schling email: schling@btinternet.com tel: 020 7609 1270 or 07748 248 437

Change of address or telephone number– please tell us if you move so that we can still contact you.

It goes without saying that being considerate and kind to all other people on the allotments makes this lovely space better for all of us.

THE RULES

Our formal Bylaws are the rules of our Association which you agree to accept when you get your allotment. Read them carefully. **Here are some of the key points:**

Your plot must be kept well cultivated and reasonably free of weeds, and the paths and verges trimmed. We inspect plots regularly and you may be asked to leave if yours isn't up to standard.

Don't dig on the grass verges or within 0.5m of the roads. The water pipes run underneath.

Cut back (up to a height of at least 2m) any trees and bushes on the edge of your plot so that they are at least 0.5m back from the road.

Don't let **self-sown tree seedlings or saplings** grow on your plot. They will cause problems later on.

Water is expensive so use it sparingly. If you use a hose, you must hold it while it's running. No sprinklers or irrigation systems are allowed. You may be surcharged if you use water excessively.

It is illegal to **sell allotment produce** or run a business involving your allotment. You may not **sub-let** your plot.

Bonfires can be burned only at permitted times. See the notice board for details. **Check** the wind won't blow smoke into nearby houses or into the faces of nearby plot holders before you light up.

If you want to put up a **shed, greenhouse or polytunnel**, check with the committee first. There are limits on the size of buildings.

You may not put a **fence or hedge** around your plot.

You must not go onto **other people's plots** or take anything from them unless you have permission. Thieves are evicted.

Always **keep the gates locked** even if you find them open. Stay with your visitors or delivery people.

You are responsible for what your family and friends do on the site.

The **speed limit of 5 mph** on the roads is to protect children, pedestrians, the road surface and verges.

Parking is only allowed in car parks. Space is short, so park off site if you can. No overnight parking is allowed.

Don't dump rubbish or allotment waste anywhere on the site. Try to keep smelly composting vegetation away from your neighbour's picnic area.

Radios, music players, etc. must be used with headphones.