

## **ALLOTMENT FIRES**

Although fires are currently permitted on allotments from 1st November to 31st March, it is essential that this code of practice is strictly followed. Any breach will be seen as an offence and a warning letter will be issued by the Town Council. After two warnings the Council will take the appropriate action to evict the tenant.

Each year the Town Council receives numerous complaints about smoke from allotment fires, which can cause a nuisance to neighbouring residents, and unnecessary air pollution. If you cause a nuisance by having a fire, you could find yourself being prosecuted for breaking the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Town Council always tries to resolve complaints about fires without using formal legal procedures, however, if fires are being lit persistently, following warnings, you or your association could be taken to court and face a fine of £5000.

At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 the Town Council agreed additional rules in respect of bonfires on allotment sites. These are supplementary to rules set out in your tenancy agreement. The supplementary rules take immediate effect and are as follows:

1. Bonfires are not allowed between 1st April and 31st October. They are only permitted on weekdays after 9.00am (excluding Bank holidays) they must be supervised at all times and must be extinguished by sunset.
2. A Fire warden should be appointed for each allotment site to ensure rules are enforced.
3. Always dry materials before burning them. Fires of wet materials produce far more smoke than a quick hot fire of dry material. Green materials, unless diseased, should be composted.
4. Never use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light a fire, and make sure that the fire is located in a safe place. Identify an area within each site for burning to limit number of individual fires.
5. Before you light a fire, check which way the wind is blowing, to make sure smoke will not blow directly into neighbouring buildings or over roads. If possible contact neighbours to allow them to close windows and get washing in.
6. In foggy weather avoid lighting fires as smoke will not disperse easily under these conditions.
7. Do not burn plastics, treated or painted timber or any other material that gives off toxic fumes.
8. No material not generated on your allotment must ever be burnt on site. If you are caught burning any such waste, it will be treated as an offence.
9. The Council reserves the right to Ban all fires on an allotment site if there are repeated breaches of these rules.
10. All allotment association committees must see that this code of practice is followed by all members.
11. If you use a solid fuel greenhouse heater only use smokeless fuels. The use of other materials which generate smoke will be treated as an offence.

Bob Baker  
Town Clerk  
1<sup>st</sup> December 2016