

# Kettering Allotments Waste Management Policy

## Rationale -

- A. Allotment land is precious, as is our planet.
- B. We recognise that waste is a large part of the problem facing humanity and the Earth and that it is a part of our duty of care to reduce, reuse and recycle any waste arising from allotment activities.
- C. This responsibility extends to the future generations that we hope will follow us on the allotments. We must not leave waste behind or contaminate the land for subsequent tenants.
- D. Allotment activities lend themselves to the reuse of many materials, eg making a compost bin from pallets and we encourage this.
- E. One of the biggest challenges faced by stewards and the committee is dealing with non reusable waste left behind by previous and retired allotment tenants. Examples include hazardous and non-recyclable material such as asbestos, car tyres, carpet, broken glass, concrete, old toilets.
- F. One of our largest expenses has been for skips for waste left behind by tenants.

## Policy statement

1. Allotment tenants have a duty of care to the land they rent and should leave it in good condition and uncontaminated.
2. From 2021 a deposit is payable by all new tenants. This money is returnable when the tenancy ends provided that the allotment is left in good condition. One aspect of this good condition is the absence of non-reusable waste.
3. Bringing hazardous material to allotment land is forbidden by law and allotment rules.
4. Tenants should avoid bringing materials that are difficult to dispose of to allotment land, advice should be sought from field stewards and the committee if unsure.

5. Once advised by stewards or the committee to remove unsuitable items then tenants should do so within a reasonable time. Failure to do so will be considered a disciplinary matter.
6. Tenants are encouraged to remove any broken and non-useful items on a regular basis and not allow these to accumulate. Where possible, these should be sent for recycling, e.g. broken wheelbarrows.
7. Stewards may set up temporary collection points, e.g. for scrap metal, to encourage recycling of broken items.
8. New tenants should report any items they find on their plots that are inappropriate waste, eg old baths, carpet.
9. A list of commonly found waste follows. This is not exhaustive and will change over time. For example in the past asbestos was a common and legal material for roofing but is now illegal and its disposal controlled by strict laws.. Also plastic waste was not considered harmful before the dangers of microplastic were known.
  - Asbestos - seek advice and do not handle or damage - asbestos dust is harmful and strict laws must be followed for specialist removal
  - Carpet
  - Tyres - old car tyres were once a fashionable garden accessory. They are toxic and banned on our allotments.
  - Glass - hazardous when broken, wear thick gloves and take extreme care when bagging up and removing
  - Old baths, again, were once fashionable to use as raised beds, but ugly and much worse than growing in the actual soil.
  - Concrete - do not use concrete for posts, paths, sheds etc. Concrete has a very bad carbon footprint and is difficult to remove and dispose of
  - Slabs - made of concrete. No more than 10 slabs per plot, eg as a shed base or short path
  - Bricks - see slabs and concrete. Only a small number of bricks allowed per plot
  - uPVC doors and windows
  - Old toilets and other plumbing fittings - please grow crops in the ground not eccentric containers on allotment land

- Think twice about bringing that old item that “might come in handy one day”
- You name it, someone has dumped it on their allotment. Please don’t!