

Great Bedwyn Allotments

Chicken Charter

The following has been based on 'best practice' advice obtained from the RSPCA, www.poultry.allotment.org.uk, other poultry and allotment societies and Newbury Council.

The aims of this Charter are to ensure

- a) The keeping of chickens on an allotment plot does not present a nuisance or cause a risk to health and
- b) The welfare of chickens kept on the site.
 - The main use of your plot must still be for vegetables/fruit/flowers and no plot may be used for chickens only.
 - Permission must be requested to keep hens from the Parish Council.
 - A maximum number of 6 chickens per plot.
 - The maximum number of plots permitted to keep chickens will be TEN.
 - No cockerels may be kept.
 - Chickens must be kept securely at all times, confined to your plot, and must not be allowed to roam the allotment site.
 - Chickens must be shut in every night.
 - Hen houses and runs must be of such a construction that does not allow rats, foxes and wild birds to enter, and rats to hide underneath.
 - Housing must be: waterproof; free of draughts but offer adequate ventilation; have a dark area for hens to nest and lay; have perches to allow hens to roost.
 - *To avoid unsightly or unsuitable hen houses being built, the construction must be clarified to the Parish Clerk on application.*
 - Ensure an area of at least 0.5 metre around the hen house and run is kept free of all vegetation.
 - No food to be stored on your plot or the allotment site *or* Any food stored on the allotment site must be kept under cover (i.e. in a shed) and stored in metal rat/bird proof containers. Feed Stations are to be elevated and Rat proof.
 - No cooked food.
 - Food must not be allowed to accumulate in or around the chicken's area.
 - The hen house and run must be kept clean, with the regular removal of manure and old food.
 - Only install and use hanging basket type feeders for food and water, in order to reduce the spread of feed on the ground.
 - If manure and old food are to be composted on site, the compost container must be rat and bird proof.
 - Chickens must be kept in good health.
 - Chickens must be provided with adequate and appropriate food, and clean water.
 - Eggs must not be sold for personal gain.
 - Dead/diseased chickens must be removed from the allotment site immediately.

- Monitoring the welfare of the chickens will be the joint responsibility of at least two (preferably three) nominated plot holders, whose full contact details will be provided to the Parish Clerk. Concerns and complaints about chickens should be directed to these monitors in the first instance, and their contact details will be made publicly available.
- All plot holders keeping chickens to provide full contact details to the Parish Clerk.
- The responsibility for removing the hen house and chickens is with the plot holder.
- A deposit of £50 will be charged for the keeping of chickens. This will be returned when the plot has been given back provided the hen house/run/chickens have been removed and the plot is returned ready for horticultural use.
- **The Parish Council will bear no liability for the welfare and security of chickens kept on the allotment site, nor will they be liable in the event of any damage caused by the chickens.**
- In view of the above, chicken-keepers may wish to insure themselves for third-party liability.

Great Bedwyn Parish Council

1st June 2016