

Southern Allotments Society Rules

The Rules of the Society incorporate the Rules which form part of the standard annual tenancy agreement between the City Council and plot holders. Where appropriate the Society Rules provide clarification of the Council rules, explaining how they apply to the Southern Allotment site in particular. (For instance, the Society Rules clarify the position in respect of bonfires.) Certain Council rules have been omitted as not being relevant. (For instance, there is no mention of “ditches” since there are none on the site.) In addition there are rules which have been adopted by the Society. (For instance, the requirement to keep gates to the site locked at all times.) In the event of any apparent conflict between the Council and the Society rules, the former take precedence.

The Rules are enforced by the Committee of the Society which acts on behalf of both the Council and the Society as a whole. The Committee has the power to terminate tenancies in the event of a breach of the rules. Wherever practicable, the Committee will give notice of the proposed termination of a tenancy and provide a reasonable opportunity for any breach to be corrected or for the tenant to make representations as to why no breach has in fact occurred.

Amendments to the Council rules, and therefore to the Society Rules, may be made at any time by the Council and notified in writing to tenants. Other amendments to the Rules may be made by a general meeting of the Society in accordance with its constitution.

1. Tenancies

- The annual rent and society membership fee must be paid promptly.
- Any change of address must be notified to the Secretary.
- At least one quarter of the plot must be cultivated within 3 months of the start of a tenancy and the whole plot within 12 months. Plots must be fully cultivated thereafter. (See also “Cultivation”, below).
- Plots may not be sublet.
- One month’s notice of surrender of a tenancy must be given to the Secretary. Upon surrender of a plot, the tenant must remove any tools, equipment or structures from the plot if so directed.
- Access to plots by a representative of the Council or a member of the Committee for Society purposes is to be granted at all times.
- Upon the surrender or termination of a tenancy, the Society reserves the right not to refund all or part of the annual rent for the plot in the event of breach of any of these Rules.

2. Cultivation

- Plots must be properly cultivated. In addition to the planting and growing

of vegetables, fruit and flowers, cultivation includes keeping ground reasonably clear of rubbish, free of weeds and the soil in a good state of fertility.

- Trees may not be grown with the exception of fruit trees grown on dwarf rooting stock and fruit bushes. Trees and bushes must not be planted closer than 3 feet from the edge of a plot and must not overhang paths or roads.
- All hedges and fences must be trimmed and properly maintained and may not exceed 4 feet in height.
- Structures such as sheds, greenhouses, polytunnels and fruit cages are generally permitted although the Secretary should be consulted before any large or unusual structure is erected.
- The keeping of livestock or bees is not permitted with the exception of a few chickens and rabbits. Any dogs brought onto the site must be kept under control.
- Small ponds are permitted (up to 5'x5'). If in doubt, consult the Secretary before digging a pond.
- Bonfires are permitted, although these must be kept under control and not used to burn hazardous waste including rubber and plastic.

3. Restrictions on use of plot

- Plots may not be used for any commercial purposes including the raising of crops for sale or advertising unless of direct benefit to the Society.
- Plots and buildings placed on them may not be used for the storage of vehicles, caravans or materials not connected with the cultivation of the plot.
- It is not permitted to remove timber, gravel, sand etc from the site or to dig wells.

4. General rules

- The site gates must be closed and locked at all times.
- Children must be supervised at all times.
- No nuisance or annoyance, including racist or sexist abuse, should be caused to any other occupier of the allotment site.
- Care must be taken to avoid obstruction or damage to roads on the site. Weed killer may not be used on the roads.
- Any paths between plots must be kept free of rubbish and be properly maintained.
- Waste and rubbish must be disposed of in accordance with the rules displayed on the site notice board. It is forbidden to bring rubbish onto the site for disposal.
- Barbed or razor wire may not be used on fences adjoining the roads.

- No alteration to the water supply system for the site is permitted. The water supply may not be used for purposes other than the cultivation of plots. In particular it may not be used for the washing of vehicles.
- Plot holders must display the number of their plot with reasonable prominence.
- A speed limit of 5 miles per hour will be observed on the site.

Amended November 2010