



Tiverton Town Council

What You Need to Know About Having An Allotment



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Where Will Your Plot Be ?

Tiverton Town Council has 6 allotment sites: Beech Road in the Cowleymoor area; Elmore just off Chapel Street, Harrowby Close in the Wilcombe area, King Street; Pinnex in Park Road, Tomswell at Higher Loughborough. You might like to put your name down for a specific site within walking distance of your home or if you are willing to travel you could indicate that you are willing to consider a plot on any site. Every effort will be made, where possible, to find you a plot on the site nearest your home. There are waiting lists for all sites and if you specify a certain site you could have a longer wait. The Tomswell and Beech Road sites have Eco Toilet toilets which is helpful if you are going to have to travel to a site.

Have You Got Enough Time To Manage An Allotment ?

This is an important question that you need to ask yourself. Allotments require a regular commitment of your time if you are going to keep the plot free from weeds and in a good state of cultivation. Plot holders usually spend on average about 3 hours per week (minimum) spread over the year. The busiest times of the year are the spring and late summer but there is always something to be done no matter what time of year it is. You will need to tend your plot on a regular basis: you can't just blitz your plot every few months. If your plot becomes weedy and untidy, or if you have not cultivated it, you will be given notice to tidy your plot or cultivate it within a given deadline. If you don't do this you risk losing your plot.

What Tools Will You Need ?

Before you can start working your plot you will need some tools. If you do not have some suitable tools you will not be able to cultivate your plot. Here is a list of the basics:

- Small hand fork
- Small hand trowel
- Large digging fork
- Large digging spade
- At least one watering can
- Hoe
- Rake
- Ball of gardeners string
- Some labels. Whether shop bought or old lolly sticks, it is important to keep track of what you are sowing.
- Some bamboo canes or large-ish sticks
- Compost and a selection of trays for sowing
- Netting or fleece for protecting your crops

How Much Will The Rent Be ?

When you are given your tenancy forms to sign you will also be given an invoice for the rent. The rent will be £30 for a large plot, £16 for a small plot and £8 for a quarter plot. The rent is payable on the anniversary of your tenancy New tenants are required to pay a £50 security deposit which is refundable on surrender of the plot as long as the tenant has complied with all the conditions for handing the plot back to the Council.

What Are You Allowed To Grow ?

You are allowed to grow fruit vegetable and flowers for the domestic consumption of you and your family. When you have a full tenancy agreement you can plant fruit trees as long as they are a dwarf variety. Rootstocks allowed: Apples M27 (very dwarf); M9 (dwarf); M26 (semi dwarf). Pear Quince C (Semi dwarf); Plum pixy; Cherry Gisela 5.

Tenancy Agreements

Once you have agreed to take on an allotment you will have to sign a tenancy agreement with the Town Council, your landlord. You should read it carefully to see what the basic rules are and what you need permission for. These rules are to protect you, your landlord, the neighbouring properties and your fellow allotment holders. If you don't stick to the rules you risk losing your plot.

Sheds and Greenhouses

Before you can erect a shed or greenhouse you will need to apply in writing for permission. Sheds and greenhouses, using toughened glass, timber or polycarbonate, up to the size of 6 feet by 4 feet and polytunnels of any size may be erected following the granting of written permission by the Council). When you are given permission you will be told where it can be sited. Do not use a shed to store valuable items such as rotavators or strimmers. Containers of chemicals should be securely stored. The Fire Officer has advised that you do not store highly inflammable or hazardous materials in your shed except in the small quantities that you are about to use. You might like to consider putting guttering on your shed so that rainwater could be collected in a water butt. This would save you many trips to and from the water trough, as well as being environmentally friendly.



While you are waiting for your plot you might want to do some reading to prepare yourself. There are lots of good value books on the market and many are available at the local library. The following easily available books are useful for both beginners and experienced gardeners.

- Dr D G Hessayon 'The Vegetable Expert'
- Dr D G Hessayon 'The Fruit Expert'
- Geoff Hamilton 'Organic Gardening'
- John Seymour 'The Self sufficient Gardener'
- Any basic guide from the Royal Horticultural Society or Gardeners' World series

Allotment Association

There is a local Allotment Association, the annual membership fee is £5.00. This gives you access to price reductions for King's seeds, discounts at some local garden suppliers and the opportunity for support, advice and occasional talks.

