

Marshfield Community Council

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Newsletter to All Allotment Tenants

April 2011

Welcome to another year! We've noticed lots of hard work already taking place on both allotment sites with plots looking pretty good!

Handbook

Marshfield Community Councils' "Tenants Allotment Handbook (Including Shed Rentals where applicable) 2008" has been revised. There have been a number of updates within the Handbook, the most significant items being detailed below, **but please ensure you read the handbook in it's entirety to be able to have peaceful enjoyment of your allotments, alongside your co-tenants.**

Please note:

Newsletters include changes / updates to the handbook; it is therefore recommended that the tenant read these VERY carefully, and make a note/appendix these to their handbook.

Children on the allotments

Please keep children off other Tenant's allotments: They should be supervised at all times.

Rental

With effect from 1st April 2011 the rental price will increase to £2.00 per perch, with pensioner's (as always) paying half this amount. The increase is deemed necessary in order to address many allotment issues and maintenance of perimeter boundaries. MCC is charging significantly lower prices than adjoining Councils, which we endeavour to uphold. Rent shall be paid yearly in **advance** on the 1st day of April each year.

Shed Rental

We are pleased to say that rental charges for Community Sheds will remain unchanged for the fourth consecutive year! **PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE A COMMUNITY COUNCIL SHED, THEN THESE MUST BE PAINTED WITH BROWN WOOD PRESERVATIVE PAINT EVERY 2 YEARS (see hand book).** In an effort to prolong the shed's life, you are also required to fell any over-hanging growth from trees or hedging over and around the shed. The base of the shed has to be kept free of soil or vegetation. An once-over of the shed each year by the tenant is vital for the shed's maintenance.

Security Keys

Due to the ever rising cost of ordering additional / replacement allotment site keys, all **future** deposit amounts will be £20.00 per key. All deposit amounts will be returned to the tenant on termination of the tenancy, or used to cut a new key should the key be lost or damaged. An additional £20.00 deposit will then be charged for the new key. The charge for the key is subject to change. Keys are **strictly** for Tenants use only - PLEASE LOOK AFTER YOUR KEYS!

Structures / Greenhouses

It has been noted by the Allotment Committee during a recent inspection, that a number of greenhouses have been erected on allotments without the consent of the Community Council. If you fall within this category, please contact the Clerk to the Council in order to ensure that documentation falls within requirements. A polite reminder – all structures (sheds, greenhouses, poly-tunnels or other structures) wished to be erected upon your allotment **MUST** have prior consent (**see hand book**). Any structures erected without consent will be removed at the tenants' expense.

Boundary Hedgerows

There are a number of bald patches appearing in the boundary fencing due to misuse. Please ensure that you maintain your section and stop DUMPING waste in or over the hedgerow into land that does not belong to the allotments.

Pathways

ALL pathways between allotments are to be reinstated on both sides of each plot. Many of you have already started this process and we look forward to seeing more in the future. Thank You!

The use of weed killer on the pathways is totally unacceptable. (or strictly forbidden)

Planting of Fruit Trees

If you are contemplating planting a fruit tree, we would request that you contact the Community Council prior to doing so. The Allotment Committee wish to ensure that any future growth will not encroach or shadow neighbouring plots in any way, or grow out of control”.

Bonfires

We would once again remind you that burning during the day time is intolerable! We have had a number of complaints for “smoke nuisance”, some which have threatened to report any further incidences. As we are aware “smoke nuisance” is in breach of the Environment Protection Act 1990 (Smoke Pollution) of which there is a maximum fine of £5000. Should this occur again, a total ban will be adopted as with NCC.

Vehicles on site

Vehicles on site are the sole responsibility of the owner; MCC cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to vehicles or their contents.

Thefts

Please ensure that all your belongings are clearly marked for your identification. There have been thefts in the past and the Community Council have endeavoured to provide the best security reasonably possible at each location, with both gates being heightened. If you have been unable to secure an insurance policy for the shed and its contents; then we would strongly advise you not to store valuable equipment on site.

Please report any break-in or thefts to the police (ring 101), do not forget to ask for a log number.

Co -Workers:

The Allotment Committee recognises that some tenants have declared they wish to enrol the assistance of co-workers who will help with the hard work and share the rewards. However, in the interest of safety on each site, we would appreciate those tenants wishing to have co-workers on site that they need to introduce their helpers to an allotment committee member for their name and address to be added to the form, and for their face to become familiar. This should make it easier to identify intruders. Please note that co-workers, unfortunately, are not tenants and therefore additional keys will not be permitted.

The tenant shall not sub let, assign, or share any part of the allotment plot without consent from MCC.

We would politely remind all tenants that you have signed an agreement to abide by the rules and regulations within the handbook – please ensure you comply! Failure to do so could result in termination of your tenancy. By renewing your rental each year, you are also renewing your tenancy agreement!

Going Green

The Allotment Committee would like to start issuing the annual rental invoices, newsletters and any bulletins via the internet, where possible. We appreciate some of our tenants do not have access to the web, however, many of you do, and by conducting our business via this route, would greatly reduce paper wastage, and postal cost. To this end, we would be grateful if you could contact the Clerk to the Community Council with a note of your email address. Please be assured your details will be held in the strictest of confidence and will only be used to contact you, with regards to Allotment matters if you so wish.

Pest Control

From time to time, the Allotment sites will be closed due to health and safety reasons, whilst undertaking pest control measures (by shooting). Notices will be clearly displayed and the police informed when our pest controller is on site. Under no circumstances are you to enter the site when the notice is on the gate!

ALLOTEES SELLING PRODUCE

Within the terms and conditions of the Allotment Agreement with Marshfield Community Council and the rules that Newport City Council stipulates to all their allotment tenants, the allotment and produce grown on it must not be used for:

'The purpose of trade or business'.

Any produce must NOT be sold for financial profit or gain.

Allotments are provided by the Council for people that reside within the area of the Marshfield Community Council during the continuance of the tenancy, solely as a leisure and recreational activity.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk of Marshfield Community Council at the above address.

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AROUND THE VILLAGE
THAT THERE ARE ALLOTMENTS IN MARSHFIELD.**

A HEALTHY WAITING LIST KEEPS THE BUILDERS OUT!

Thank you, and have a great summer!
ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE
Marshfield Community Council

