



Questions from Allotment Interest Group July 2019

1. Can water butts be fitted next to the new allotment shed?

The council will need to consider this at the next meeting. Please submit your plans to Kings Hill Parish Council for the Amenities Committee to consider at a future meeting. Plans should include dimensions, quantities, location and who would be responsible for purchasing and installing the equipment.

2. Would it be possible to have some communal compost bins next to the new shed?

The council has previously considered communal composting and decided against it. If you would like this to be re-considered please submit your plans to Kings Hill Parish Council for the Amenities Committee to consider at a future meeting. Plans should include dimensions, quantities, location and who would be responsible for purchasing and installing the equipment.

3. Why have only some plots been strimmed?

The strimmed allotments are currently under Kings Hill Parish Council responsibility. This is part of the process for us to prepare the allotment plots in a reasonable condition ready for the new tenant. Other allotments that appear neglected are still the responsibility of the tenant. Should

the time frame for vacation/'notice served' expire – the plot will automatically fall under Kings Hill Parish Council control. We can then make arrangements to prepare the plot for the new tenant.

4. In the original tenancy agreement bare rooted trees were allowed to be planted in the soil. Under the new agreement what will happen to trees that were already planted in the soil when the tenancy was taken over?

The committee are aware that trees have been planted by many existing tenants and that trees were already present on some new tenants' plots. They understood that this has been *allowed* to happen and respect that existing tenants have invested resources in acquiring and growing these trees. The committee has agreed to allow existing trees to remain. Upon vacating the plot, Kings Hill Parish Council reserve the right to remove existing trees in the future.

5. Can the Parish Council give a clear description on cultivation of their plot?

Cultivation is to prepare and use (land) for crops or gardening. This may be weeding an area, digging over the soil or fertilizing etc. Ground cultivated is when the ground is prepared for current and future growing.

6. Can the Parish Council give advance notice of when a plot inspection will take place and can plot holders be accompanied at that inspection?

The facility officer is happy to have one representative of the 'Allotment Interest Group' accompany him on an inspection. Approximate inspection dates will be circulated on the group email and those interested in attending should notify the officer.

7. When a plot is given up the Parish Council commences strimming, does the plot holder have the right to stop the strimming taking place while produce is still growing?

Tenants that are in the process of vacating their plot have full rights to remove their produce, structures and foreign materials. No 'strimming' or other clearance operation by Kings Hill Parish Council shall take place, as we expect (under the Tenancy Agreement) the tenant to vacate leaving the plot in a 'clean and tidy' condition. However, in many instances, a tenant that has 'served notice' to vacate has very little, if any, *produce*, growing. To reduce the stress caused by overgrown seeding weeds to other allotment holders, Kings Hill Parish Council reserve the right to enter the plot to carry out maintenance such as strimming. Any produce on the plot shall remain untouched until the Tenancy Agreement has ended.

8. Does the 12 month tenancy rule also apply to raising the rent?

The council is required to give 12 months notice to advise of a new rent payment. There are no requirements to give notice of a new tenancy agreement. The agreement is only valid for 12 months.

9. Who will be responsible for treatment and security of the new shed?

The council owns and maintains the shed.