

Allotments Environment Policy

The Town Council, Shepherd Road Allotments Society (SRAS) and Blundell Road Allotments Committee (BRAC) will wherever possible ensure that allotments are managed in a sustainable and resourceful way to enhance the environment.

The Saint Annes on the Sea Neighbourhood Plan of the Development Plan for Fylde Borough Council which came into force on the 24th May 2017 under 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 supports positive action on sustainability:

EN2: Green Infrastructure (b) Improving the quality and accessibility of green infrastructure and where possible providing net gains in biodiversity

1, The Town Council is committed to safeguarding appropriate allotment provision.

Working with SRAS and BRAC the Town Council aims to improve allotment facilities. In so doing recognising the benefits for the health and wellbeing of the community, as well as wildlife and climate change adaptation.

2, The Town Council is committed to the sustainable regeneration of St. Anne's on the Sea and recognises the role that allotments can play.

3, Allotment gardening can make a valuable contribution to the reuse and recycling of waste materials, including materials brought in from beyond the allotments and put to new uses.

4, Issues such as biodiversity and landscape quality are common to all allotments and the Council will act as a leader and enabler regarding strategic direction guidance and the promotion of environmental enhancement supporting allotment sites in championing wildlife, flora and fauna issues.

5, A wide variety of materials can be usefully employed on allotments that would otherwise go to landfill, including pallets, bark chippings, and compostable materials.

(In all cases care should be taken to ensure that these materials do not become inadvertent sources of soil pollution or odour/vermin nuisance, and in community-based schemes, that fly - tipping is avoided).

6, Uncultivated corners of communal areas and compost bins offer significant habitats for wildlife, some of which (especially predators of garden pests) can aid good cultivation and should be protected.

7, It is preferable to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and poisons. This can be achieved by the continued use of organic alternatives and will assist to promote a healthy environment for wildlife. Reduction in the usage of pesticides and fertilisers should be encouraged.

The growing popularity of organic produce also suggests that information on bio-diversity and measures to protect and enhance habitats should be included in promotional materials for allotments to encourage greater uptake.

8, Allotment sites will be encouraged to develop their own Wildlife Policy.

9, In addition, plots could be set aside for Committee led bonfires which in turn would serve to reduce skip use and aid site clearance.

10, Water usage: The Town Council encourages Allotment Committees and tenants to follow sustainable water management.

Tap water on allotment sites will only be turned on in case of emergency (drought). Hose pipes will not be permitted for collection of tap water. Water butts should not be filled with tap water This is to ensure that only necessary tap water is used.

All tenants will be encouraged to use water butts, personal and communal, for collection and retention of rain water.

Improvements in usage can be made through education of tenants in good gardening techniques.

11, Rotating crops on plots should be encouraged to prevent soil erosion and increase soil fertility.

12, Improving knowledge of sustainability through biodiversity, composting and intelligent water usage will be actively encouraged and supported by the Town Council in conjunction with Allotment committees.

13, This strategy document will therefore provide a framework for the sustainable development and management of allotments in partnership with SRAS, BRAC and site tenants, and is supplemental to existing allotment tenancy agreements.

Specific to Shepherd Road:

- 1, Should seek to add 12 communal water tanks (12,000 litres) by January 2021.
- 2, Ensure all plots have water butts / tanks in place by January 2021.
- 3, Form a repair / renew team for connecting tanks / butts on site in both communal and tenant plot areas.
- 4, Create and disseminate information guidance on smart water usage.
- 5, Apply water restrictions from January 2019.