

Deputy Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 September 2020 10:36
To: Deputy Clerk | Swaffham Town Council; CllrBeech.SwaffhamTC@gmail.com; CllrBell.SwaffhamTC@gmail.com; CllrBensley.SwaffhamTC@gmail.com; CllrDarby.SwaffhamTC@gmail.com
Subject: Allotment Rules

Kerry

I would understand if when you receive this e-mail that your thinking is, "here he goes again stirring the pot". I can assure you I am not writing to the council just for fun. I am a passionate allotment holder and one who does take notice of the rules and to the best of my ability, stick to them, while growing the crops that seem to be more edible than those bought in a supermarket. The other reason is that on the whole there is good community spirit within the plot holders, generally.

My complaint is with the council not you personally and it's this.

Rules are not being stuck to by some and the council continuously allows this to happen. With a waiting list we are told, it's more important that each plot holder if able, keeps his or her plot in good order and actually cultivate it as rules 8 states. There are instances where this rule is broken year after year. The next rule broken on a regular basis by some is rule 15. Tenants must not cause any nuisance to other allotment holders. Now, feeding food to chickens and geese etc in small pots on the ground does nothing but encourage rats. I see these on a daily basis. I guess that causing a nuisance. Last year in the Autumn the rats got at my late carrots and I had to take them all up before I wanted to. I can't take up my parsnips before I need them as they would not keep and believe me the rats will go through them. It was one of the reasons why I moved from the water tower site where chickens were being fed on the ground and the rats were breeding whole sale. How can this be right does the council care.

At the end of rule 19 it says, all reasonable measures must be taken to avoid infestation by vermin. How do think the plot holders should read this, its a proper politicians statement, it says nothing at all. No poison should be just thrown on the ground I believe, as there must be is a legal obligation to use the proper boxes. Will plot holders buy them, can they afford to keep buying the poison, its expensive as I know, I am one who does use it on a regular basis but I am afraid I am fighting a losing battle.

I think a council who makes the rules you should be seen to enforce them else more friction will bring more complaints because nothing is done to incentivise those who just don't care. A letter to those who err will only make them do as little as possible until the next time. The two things I don't understand is why anyone would have two allotments let alone one and not grow anything but weeds, not crops. And the other is why the council lets them get away with it year after year. My feeling is that the council is only interested in the money generated from the tenants who want have the plots, what else can it be.

Regards

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