

Health & Safety

Dear Tenant

As part of our contract with the council, we are required to complete risk assessments annually. Part of this process is to evidence to the council that we have made every attempt to reduce risk. With this in mind we wish to advise/remind you of the following risks and best practice when on the site.

Tetanus - keep tetanus injections up to date.

E. colli /weils disease – always use gloves when handling manure and compost and wash your hands thoroughly after handling. There is a wash basin in the site toilet.

Poisoning from garden chemicals –

- store in original container
- use sparingly
- only use in accordance with instructions
- wherever possible, do not to keep on site and if kept on site, store in small amounts, on a high shelf out of reach of children.

Vehicles – when on site, please be aware of children/animals/other plot holders on the road and in the parking areas. Do not drive any faster than 5 miles per hour on the site.

Eye injury – always wear eye protection when appropriate. Use plastic bottles, cane toppers or other covers for canes below head height.

Cuts - glass should *not* be used on the plot.

Wasp & bee stings – keep a basic first aid kit with antihistamine cream at your plot. If you have a sting allergy, ensure your EpiPen is always with you.

Lymes Disease – please be aware that ticks may be present in long grass. Monitor any bites closely and seek medical advice if unsure.

Water-borne diseases – we cannot guarantee that water from the standpipes is fit for drinking without boiling.

Some general points to remember: -

- All tenants have a responsibility to make sure that their plots are safe for anyone visiting the site, whether they are invited or not.
- All members have a responsibility to make sure that paths remain clear of obstructions.
- All members have a responsibility to respond to hazards on communal areas of the site. If a hazard is spotted, it should be dealt with immediately or reported to a member of the committee. This might just mean clearing up broken glass or removing a trip hazard, such as a discarded rake.
- Members using machinery, whether their own, borrowed or hired should make sure they understand all the controls and operating procedures before starting and should use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves/goggles/ear protection.

We all have a responsibility to do as much as we can to keep the allotments safe and well managed. Your cooperation in these matters will ensure we continue to have very few accidents on the site.

Any questions or suggestions on Health & Safety issues should be taken to the Chair.