

Allotment Information Pack



Allotments

Allotment gardening provides a wide range of benefits to communities and the environment. It is also a considerable source of joy for gardeners and can provide you with an abundance of fresh produce and exercise.

How to get an allotment plot

There are 17 allotment sites in Croydon; their management is a mix of 11 independently run allotment societies and associations and 6 sites directly let by Croydon Council. Contact details to enquire about availability for the **independent sites can be found at the end of this document**.

Croydon Council has recently changed the way allotment waiting lists are managed in an effort to speed up waiting times and make the process more efficient. As a result, five of our six direct-let sites now manage their own waiting list (**please note that most sites currently have waiting lists**). In order to apply to these waiting lists you must contact the committees directly using the contacts below:

- **Hartley Down** - Stoats Nest Road, Purley, CR5 2JJ - hartleydownallotments@gmail.com
- **Mickleham Way** - Mickleham Way, New Addington, CR0 0PN - micklehamway@outlook.com
- **Midday Sun** - St Andrews Road, Coulsdon, CR5 3HJ - middaysunallotments@hotmail.com
- **Orchard Avenue** - Orchard Avenue, Shirley, CR0 7NL - parks@croydon.gov.uk
- **Pampisford Road** - Pampisford Road, South Croydon, CR2 6DB - PRAS@hotmail.co.uk
- **Sanderstead** - Purley Oaks Road, Sanderstead, CR2 0NS - redjohnrathbone@gmail.com

The cost of renting an allotment plot

A full allotment plot is approximately 250 square metres and is thought to be able to feed a family of four, all year round. However, a half plot (125 square metres) is recommended as a good starting point for those with less experience. **Leasing a full plot from a council allotment currently costs £39 per year. Plots leased from organisations other than the council start at around £40 per year.**

Council allotments offer 50% discount* to the following groups of people:

- Those over 60 years of age
- Those who are unemployed
- Registered disabled people

*You will need to provide evidence to ensure you meet any of the above criteria.

Waiting lists

Allotment gardening is popular and there is a demand for growing space so expect a wait for a plot to become available. The length of time you wait depends on the time of year, size of site, plot size you request and popularity of the each site. Waiting times currently range from 10 weeks to 2 years. We are unable to inform applicants of how long they can expect to remain on a waiting list before they are offered a plot. Allotments usually become available as a result of a tenant giving up a plot or if a tenancy has been terminated due to a tenant breaking the rules. As a result, it is not possible to accurately predict how many plots may become vacant during any given period.

What are the allotment rules?

Allotment plot-holders agree to abide by the rules set out in an allotment lease. Plot holders must comply with these rules or risk being evicted. The allotment lease rules for Croydon Council sites are as follows:

THE TENANT SHALL:

- (1) Keep the allotment garden clean, in good condition and in a good state of cultivation and fertility. Suitable cultivation is considered as:
 - (a) At least $\frac{1}{4}$ cultivated within the first 3 months of commencing the tenancy
 - (b) More than $\frac{3}{4}$ cultivated within the first 12 months;
- (2) At all times keep free from obstruction a margin of at least 23 centimetres (9 inches) wide on all sides of the plot, and is responsible for maintaining this, so as to allow the provision of an inter-plot footpath of at least 43 centimetres (18 inches) wide between the Allotment and other allotments adjacent thereto;
- (3) Not cause any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment, or obstruct any path set out by the Corporation for the use of the occupiers of the Allotments, nor plant any trees, shrubs or plants likely in the opinion of the Corporation to be injurious to the Allotment or other Allotments;
- (4) Not use any **hosepipe** for the purpose of obtaining water from the Corporation's supply (other than in accordance with such rules as the Corporation may establish from time to time), and shall pay the Corporation for the use of water supplied to the allotment the sum of 20p per 25m² per annum (already included as part of rental);
- (5) Not underlet, assign, or part with the possession of the allotment, or any part of it, without the written consent of the Corporation;

- (6) Not, without the written consent of the Corporation, cut or prune any timber of trees, or take, sell, or carry away any mineral, gravel, sand or clay;
- (7) Keep every hedge that forms part of the allotment garden properly cut and trimmed, and maintain and keep in repair any fences and gates on the allotment garden;
- (8) Not erect any buildings in excess of 1.80m in height, 1.20m in width, and 1.80m in length without the written consent of the Corporation. Any buildings will be the tenant's responsibility and must be maintained at all times in a safe, secure, neat and tidy condition. The Council may at any time withdraw permission on due notice being given and the structure shall be removed at the tenants expense upon this notice, or termination of the agreement. No material of a permanent nature must be used in the construction of the foundation;
- (9) Not use barbed or razor wire for a fence adjoining any path set out by the Corporation for the use of the occupiers of the allotment gardens;
- (10) Not dispose of any rubbish on any part of the allotment site. Rubbish must be disposed of correctly. Vegetation or organic matter should be composted where possible. Under no circumstances must rubbish be deposited on any other part of the allotment site;
- (11) Not light **bonfires** on the allotment site;
- (12) Take proper precautions when using sprays or fertilisers to minimise any adverse effects on the environment and comply at all times with current regulations;
- (13) Not conduct any trade or business on the allotment garden or any part thereof;
- (14) Observe and perform, so far as they concern the allotment garden, all covenants and conditions of the lease (if any) under which the Corporation hold the land;
- (15) Observe and perform any other special condition which the Corporation may consider necessary in order to preserve the allotment garden from deterioration, and of which notice is given to tenants from time to time.

Independent Allotment Societies in Croydon

The following sites are fully self-managed and if you are interested in renting a plot from them approach them direct by the contact information provided below:

Bensham Manor – Bert Road and Pawsons Road, Thornton Heath.

These sites are managed by Bensham Manor Allotment Society.

Visit www.benshammanorallotments.org.uk for full details.

Biggin Wood – Biggin Hill, Upper Norwood.

This site is managed by Upper Norwood District Plotholders Society.

Contact Jeanne Mitchell on 020 8764 7454 for further information.

Enmore Road – Enmore Road, South Norwood.

This site is managed by South Norwood Allotment Holders Association.

Contact Anita Macro on anitamacro@btinternet.com for more information.

Glenthorne Avenue – Glenthorne Avenue, Shirley.

This site is managed by Addiscombe, Woodside & Shirley Leisure Gardens.

Visit the site any weekend for more information.

Visit: www.awslg.org.uk or email: awslg.ltd@gmail.com for more information.

Heavers Farm – Alveston Gardens (off Selhurst Road), South Norwood.

This site is managed by Selhurst & South Norwood Allotment Society.

Contact Rosemarie Green on 020 8654 1835 for further information.

Gonville Road – Mayfield Road, Thornton Heath.

This site is managed by Thornton Heath & Norbury Horticultural Society.

Contact K. Plummer on 07956165542 for further information.

Norbury Park – Norbury Avenue, Norbury.

This site is managed by Norbury Park Horticultural Society.

Contact Valerie Jarvis on 020 8764 4953 for further information.

Park Hill – Deepdenes Avenue, East Croydon.

This site is managed by Park Hill Allotments & Gardens Society.

Visit: www.parkhill-allotments.org.uk or email: lettings.parkhill@gmail.com for more information.

Spa Hill – Spa Hill, Upper Norwood.

This site is managed by Spa Hill Allotment Society.

Visit www.spahill.org.uk for full details.

South Croydon – Sanderstead Road, South Croydon.

This site is managed by South Croydon Allotment Society.

Visit: www.southcroydonallotment.com or email: raf227@hotmail.com for more information.

Smitham – Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon.

This site is managed by Smitham Allotment Society.

Contact Eddie Nash on 07887515888 for further information.

These societies are not directly managed by the council and all societies manage their own waiting lists, pricing and inspections. The council accepts no responsibility for the way these sites are managed, each society should be governed by a constitution and committee that has been formed to make decisions. For any queries regarding these sites, please contact parks@croydon.gov.uk