



Policy for keeping Chickens on Allotment Plots

Adopted February 2024

The following policy is devised for the keeping of chickens on allotments upon permission from the Parish Council.

Created to support the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens and Pullets.

All chickens must be kept in a coop, and should have:

- At least 1 square metre floor area for each bird.
- A perch for the chickens to stand on while they sleep.
- An exercise space or 'run' which they can access daily.
- A nesting box filled with animal safe wood shavings/straw for the chickens to lay eggs in.
- Suitable water feeders must be available with fresh water at all times. These should be closely monitored during cold weather due to risk of freezing to ensure water is available at all times.

Tenants should visit and check on their chickens at least once per day.

The coop must be cleaned weekly and fresh bedding provided.

The Parish Council permits up to 12 chickens per coop per 5 pole plot.

No more than 25% of the allotment garden should be occupied by permitted livestock, the other 75% should be used for cultivation.

Feeder must be kept off the ground.

Shade should be provided during hot sunny days to allow the chickens to shelter.

Any feed in need of storage must be stored in a sealed bin or container to keep it secure from rodents.

If the tenant allows the number of chickens to be kept on the site to exceed the number permitted, they must reduce their stock to the permitted number within 6 months.

The Parish Council does not permit any other livestock except rabbits or bees, both of which must be requested formally by the tenant to the Parish Council.

Cockerels are not permitted on the allotment site.

If Avian Flu is reported in the local area, it is the tenant's duty to ensure all measures are put in place to adhere to the guidelines to reduce the spread.

Any rodents attracted to any chicken housing must be dealt with by the tenant without the use of poison. Any rodent infestation must be reported to the Parish Council in the first instance.

The Parish Council may seek veterinary advice regarding any livestock that appear to be suffering or neglected.