

Kensworth Parish Council

Health & Safety 'Guide' - ALLOTMENTS

An Allotment should be a place to relax and enjoy the pleasures of gardening. However, Allotment Gardens can be a place full of unexpected dangers. There are potential hazards in and around and caution is required to ensure the welfare of all individuals, and wildlife.

The following is a list of examples (but not exhaustive) for consideration prior to allotment gardening:

1. **Physical exercise**
 - 1.1 Preparing the soil and maintaining allotments is physically demanding. Consult your doctor if health conditions apply.
2. **Footwear & Clothing**
 - 2.1 The wearing of safety footwear, suitable clothing and gloves should be observed
3. **Hazardous rubbish**
 - 3.1 Broken Glass/Metal/Nails and other hazardous materials may be present on allotment grounds. Risks are reduced by keeping plots tidy.
4. **Tetanus / Lockjaw**
 - 4.1 Caused by bacteria resulting from (but not limited to) punctures to the skin, cuts, wounds, animal & insect bites to the body. Update Tetanus vaccinations.
5. **Skin irritations**
 - 5.1 Caused by certain vegetation for example (but not limited to) ivy, euphorbia, rue. Avoid contact and refer to item 2.
6. **Garden tools**
 - 6.1 Hazardous if not used and stored correctly. Follow user instructions and avoid leaving spades, forks and sharp instruments upturned.
7. **Power Tools**
 - 7.1 Complying with all specific safety and handling requirements should be observed.
8. **Chemicals – pesticides, fertilisers, weedkillers, wood preservatives**
 - 8.1 Hazardous if not used or stored correctly or disposed of responsibly. Labels confirming the contents should be kept intact along with a copy of the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)
Never put chemicals into old drinks bottles, weedkiller does not just kill weeds!
9. **Wildlife Welfare**
 - 9.1 Hazards to wildlife include (but not limited to) dangerous or contaminated litter left lying around, low level fruit netting, pesticides, open drains, slug pellets, mowing, strimming, broken glass and piles of rubbish. Conservation of Wildlife is the responsibility of all, further information found through The English Nature website.
10. **Weil's Disease (leptospirosis)**
 - 10.1 Serious Infection caused by urine of infected animals spreading through soil and water. (such as rats) Refer to item 2 and item 11.1.
11. **Risk of infections**
 - 11.1 Regular use of hand-sterilising gel and hand washing should be maintained.
 - 11.2 Thorough washing of all produce harvested from allotments should be undertaken prior to consumption.

12. Weather conditions

12.1 Hazards caused by varying weather conditions, slipping in the wet, sunburn, heat exhaustion and others. Refer to item 2. Use Sunscreen. Stay hydrated.

13. First aid kit

13.1. Keep an up to date kit available. Cover existing cuts and grazes with a waterproof dressing prior to tending allotments.

14. Personal safety

Allotment gardeners often spend long periods of time on their own on site.

14.1 Take personal safety seriously and tell another person where you are going and what time you will be back and arrange a time to check in with someone.

14.2 Keep a mobile telephone with you.

14.3 Always lock the gate behind you upon entering and leaving the site.

14.4 Be aware of what you will do in an emergency.

Health Emergencies

Call 999 Ambulance/Police

Allotments Address:

Clayhall Road

Kensworth

LU6 3RJ

Vehicle Access Gate:

Clayhall Road (Gate 2 = Main Gate with full Vehicle Access)

What3Words = cycle.rising.lots

Gate Code = allotment holders have access code

If a person is not breathing:

Call 999 for an Ambulance and commence CPR, and send someone else to get a Defibrillator, further instructions will be provided by the call handler, wait on the call with the patient until the Ambulance arrives.

Defibrillator locations:

Village Hall (this is the closest to allotments)

The Chilterns

Kensworth

LU6 3RJ

What3Words = powers.pill.poppy

Methodist Church

57B Common Road

Kensworth

LU6 3RG

What3Words = drift.hobby.sage

Allotment Gates:

Gate 1 spend.bind.design (what3words)

Inside access by foot only

Clayhall Road - 1st allotment gate (from Common Road)

Gate code = allotment holders have access code

Gate 2 cycle.rising.lots (what3words)

Main Gate with full Vehicle access

Clayhall Road - 2nd allotment gate (from Common Road)

Gate code = allotment holders have access code

Gate 3 rides.ramp.broom (what3words)

Inside access by foot only

The Chilterns – top corner of small carpark

Gate code = allotment holders have access code

Gate 4 page.young.employ (what3words)

No general access, Parish Council and limited keyholders only

The Chilterns (housing estate)

Gate code = not available, security key locked, no general access.