

RULES OF VALE ROAD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

1. Rents, which include a leisure gardeners' affiliation fee, are to be paid annually in advance. The renewal date is 1 January and members must inform the Secretary of any change in address.
2. Plots are to be used as allotment gardens only. With written permission, rabbits and hens may be kept but the size and materials for housing them are subject to Town Council and Committee agreement (section 12, Allotments Act 150 refers). No other animals may be kept.
3. Plots are to be cultivated, and kept reasonably clear of weeds. Except in exceptional weather conditions, or extended illness, members who neglect their plots for more than a month will be asked to give a valid reason for doing so. If a reasonable standard is not maintained thereafter, the Committee reserves the right to withdraw plots, after due warning in writing.
4. If corrugated iron is present on a plot, the edges must not be sharp or jagged; edges must be rounded off or protected to prevent injury.
5. New members will be restricted to a total plot size of six rods. Existing members may not extend their plot holding beyond a total of six rods.
6. No buildings (e.g. sheds) are to be erected without the agreement of the Committee. Sheds should be erected in planned spaces and must display the member's plot number. Guttering should be installed on all sheds to collect rain water for use on the plots.
7. Pathways abutting plots must be mown to at least half their width. Edges must be cut to remain clearly visible so that people do not trip and fall. Plot holders must ensure that paths are not less than 24 inches wide and re-instate them to that width if necessary. Pathways should not be obstructed. The plot holder may be considered liable if an accident is caused by poor path and edge maintenance (e.g. a deep drop along a path edge).
8. Members' own power driven machines (e.g. mowers, strimmers, cutters) may be used but must be covered by the members' own home insurance policy or separate cover obtained. It is preferable for members to store equipment in their own shed. However, if equipment is stored in the communal shed, it is at the members own risk as the society and its insurers can accept no responsibility.
9. No plants must exceed plot areas so that they overhang pathways or boundaries with neighbouring plots. No trees are to be planted on individual plots without the prior agreement of the committee. Trees must be well pruned and should be removed before a plot is vacated.
10. Plots may not be sublet or transferred to other persons without the agreement of the Committee.
11. No annoyance must be caused to other plot holders or to the residents of the adjoining gardens or land. Any dispute between plot holders must be referred to the Committee whose decision will be final.
12. Barbed wire must not be used for fencing or for any other purpose. Glass is not allowed anywhere on the site. Plastic, wire, nylon netting etc must be removed by the owner when no longer required.

13. No boundary trees may be felled without approval of the Committee and, if necessary, of Haywards Heath Town Council
14. Individual bonfires are not permitted. Occasional communal bonfires may be lit at the Committee's discretion.
15. Plot holders must have at least one working compost bin or heap. Garden waste from private property must not be brought onto the site unless it for the plot holder's own compost bin. Waste vegetation is not to be placed in, or adjacent to, surrounding hedges, fences, stream or culvert.
16. Members are strongly encouraged to use water butts but for safety reasons they must be provided with a lid. Hose pipes may only be used to fill water butts in dry weather and members are expected to conserve water as far as possible. Communal water butts are provided but should be used solely for plot watering and every effort made to keep the butts clean and free from sediment.
17. Dogs must not be brought onto the site unless on a leash and under full control. Should the dog foul a footpath the owner must clean up.
18. The Committee has the right to refuse admittance to any persons other than plot holders (or members of their families) unless accompanied by the plot holder or family member.
19. Officers and agents of the Town Council and Mid Sussex District Council are entitled to inspect the allotment gardens, when so directed by the Councils.
20. The use of weed killers of any kind is forbidden anywhere in the allotment gardens without committee approval and supervision.
21. Minerals, gravel or soil must not be taken away from the allotment gardens.
22. The slow worms living on the site are an endangered species and plot holders should protect them. It is a criminal offence to kill them

Updated rules as agreed at 2013 AGM