

[Hurworth Parish Council](#)

Allotments – Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment

1. In 2010 the Local Government Association published a paper called “**A place to grow**”; this was produced in response to the provision of allotments to residents of Hurworth Parish.

2. Allotment Usage, Aims and Objectives

Allotment Lettings Policy

The Allotment Act of 1922 defines the term “allotment garden” as “an area which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family including the keeping of small livestock as agreed by the allotment authority”

This description remains important because it defines the permitted use of an allotment plot. Allotments across County Durham had been managed previously by a mixture of the former County Council, and a number of District, Town and Parish Councils.

This policy deals with the harmonisation and rationalisation of the numerous procedures and regulations from the former responsible authorities in County Durham.

An allotment is historically defined as a plot of land, rented to individuals so that they can grow fruit and vegetables for themselves and their families to eat. There is no set standard size but nationally the most common plot size is approximately 250 m²

The **aims** of this policy link to the Corporate priorities:

- **Altogether healthier**- improving health and wellbeing
- **Altogether greener**- ensuring an attractive and ‘liveable’ local environment, and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges. It is generally recognised that allotment gardening is a pursuit that provides wide ranging benefits to local communities and can make a positive change to the quality of people’s lives. In addition to the advantages of producing good quality, low cost food, gardeners gain the benefit of healthy exercise that is active, socially inclusive and reflects the ideals of sustainability and wellbeing.

HPC has adopted these principles.

3. Statement of Allotment Facilities

a. Strait Lane – 48 plots

Facility	Status	Comments
Electricity	None	
Water	Yes - conditional	For allotment use only. And no hoses with specific permission.
Security Fence	None	
Locked gates	Yes	Keys available to plot holders
Parking	None	
Toilets	None	

Leisure area	None	
Play area	None	
Hard core paths	None	
Grass paths	Yes	Cut by HPC. Not suitable for disabled people or perambulators
Dogs allowed	Yes - conditional	Must be kept on lead
Public right of way	No	Private land, allotment holders only.

b. Hurworth Grange – 9 plots

Facility	Status	Comments
Electricity	None	
Water	Yes - conditional	For allotment use only. And no hoses with specific permission.
Security Fence	High wall security	
Locked gates	Yes	Keys available to plot holders
Parking	Yes	
Toilets	Yes	
Leisure area	Yes	
Play area	Yes	
Hard core paths	None	
Grass paths	Yes	Cut by HPC. Not suitable for disabled people or perambulators
Dogs allowed	Yes - conditional	Must be kept on lead
Public right of way	No	Private land, allotment holders only.

4. Equality Summary

Geographic Location	Only residents of Hurworth Parish can qualify for an allotment in Hurworth.
Age	<p>Allotment sites are an environment that can foster good relations for all members of a community through their shared interest in gardening. All age groups should be welcomed, although younger children must be supervised. All age groups should be welcomed, although younger children will need supervision.</p> <p>HPC has discussed a programme to help invalids with their recovery by acting as 'buddies' and invite them to help on allotments. It is hoped this will prove successful. It must be appreciated that as the allotments in Hurworth are not disabled friendly, care must be taken when older people are allocated plots.</p>
Disabled persons	<p>The Council currently do not provide allotments suitable for disabled persons however an applicant who has a disability will not be discriminated against.</p> <p>No plot holder monitoring data is available so the number of holders that consider themselves to have a disability is not known. At present the Allotment Committee discusses the requirements of plot holders on a one to one basis.</p> <p>Should an applicant require an accessible plot the Allotments Committee would try to provide one, but most plots could not be defined as appropriate.</p> <p>HPC realises that the allotments lack several basic facilities which may be required by disabled persons, and hence use their discretion in assigning allotments accordingly.</p>
Gender	<p>Both male and female persons are welcome to apply for allotments; there is no discretionary considerations in allotment assignment.</p> <p>It must be noted that there are no toilets at the Strait Lane location.</p>
Race or Ethnic commitment	No impact has been identified.
Religion and belief including non-belief	No impact has been identified.
Sexual orientation	No impact has been identified.
Working status, employed, unemployed, retired	No impact has been identified.

5. Allotment Management

The land at both locations is owned by Hurworth Parish Council.

At present the allotments are controlled by HPC, and this will continue until such time that an Allotment Association is formed.

Rents are paid annually to HPC.

The day to day management and supervision of the allotments is handled by an Allotment Committee, which comprises HPC representatives and allotment holder representative.

The original Rules and Regulations for the HPC Allotments date back to 1932.

The current Rules and Regulations were drafted in 2011, and are reviewed each year,

The Allotment Rules form part of the HPC Operating Procedures.

As the land owners, the council reserves the right to veto allotment assignments and to evict tenants if circumstances dictate such actions needed to ensure the safety and harmony of the use of the land for allotment purposes.

An Allotment Register is maintained and a Waiting List is maintained by the Parish Clerk.

Allotment rents are reviewed each year by HPC, as the land owner.

The allotments are insured within the HPC insurance policies