

**CRIPLEY MEADOW ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION
HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

- **All activities carry an element of risk and allotment gardening is no exception. All members are asked to take health and safety needs seriously at the same time as approach the issue sensibly. Members have a duty of care to act responsibly and comply with all aspects of the Members Rules. New and existing plotholders have a responsibility to anyone on their plot, regardless of whether they have given permission for them to be there. Allotments can never be fully secure. Keeping sites tidy and attractive is one of the best ways of deterring anti-social activity, theft and vandalism and promoting a healthy and safe environment for all.**

This is implemented through our Constitution and Rules, Newsletters, Web site and introduction to the site by the membership secretary. All these means are used to caution and remind members about any recent, reported or ongoing problems.

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- The following has been noted
- During our programme of reclamation the committee has been actively working towards ensuring that plots are clear of hazards at the time of leasing to a new plotholder and advising them of any remaining problems.
- New plotholders are advised about known health and safety risks or hazards associated with the site.
- Plotholders can spend long periods on their plot and are advised to let someone know they are there. We have made many changes to our site during reclamation to promote personal safety so that members can now see others on site.
- Plotholders are asked to report concerns about health and safety on their plot, or the site, to the committee as soon as they occur. The secretary keeps a Health and Safety Record. Named contacts are included on our web site and regularly posted on the Notice Board. Visitors to the site should also be made aware of any ongoing health and safety issues.
- A First Aid Kit is always available at Working Parties and members are encouraged to be informed about First Aid matters for their own safety. Incidents are recorded in the Health and Safety record and reported to members so that we can all learn.
- New Working Party Members are advised about the safe use of tools and to have a duty of care for themselves other members.
- Fences and gates have been renewed in the past 4 years and all members are asked to keep the gates locked at all times.
- Plotholders are asked to report any incidents of vandalism to the committee and to the police and to obtain an incident number. Our web site contains advice about personal safety and vandalism
- Plotholders have a duty of care to store, use and dispose of glass, pesticides, fertilisers, oil, petrol; and any other potentially harmful substances. These must always be stored well out of reach of children and locked away.
- Plotholders should contact the council waste management department for information for the safe disposal of surplus pesticides and fertilisers, asbestos-cement or other potentially dangerous materials. These should never be burnt, placed in skips, or poured away.
- The committee report Health and Safety risks to their landlord, Oxford City Council.
- Being next to a number of water courses rats can be a problem and members are asked to turn compost regularly and report problematic infestations.
- Members are asked to think carefully and consult the committee before making a pond on their allotment remembering that young children can drown in even very shallow water.
- Our biannual audits inform member where they spot any safety issues and ask for appropriate action.