

19 October 2010

We have been reported to Environmental Control about Bonfires

Members must not have smoky bonfires.

If material must be burnt because it is diseased or too woody please ensure it is dried out first and check the wind is not blowing towards the flats and railway line.

In **April** we closed and cleared the old communal burning spot at the back of Plot 126 as we felt it was too near the flats. We had not received a complaint at that time.

Most material can and should be composted on member's plots

The reasons given for the need to have bonfires are:

- (1) The disposal of diseased plants
- (2) Clearance of allotment site when a new tenancy is started.
- (3) Disposal of woody, hard- to-compost material.
- (4) Disposal of large quantities of material such as hedge trimmings.

August Newsletter Burning Spot We have now made a new communal burning pile by the Association Shed. This is for communal plots and members with no space on their plot for a garden burner. It is ONLY for burning dried perennial weeds and organic material that cannot be composted. Please follow the OCC bonfire code. A copy is on the notice board. You must burn your own stuff here and supervise it. The complaint came in August after this action and it was reported to members as below.

September Newsletter Bonfires We have had a number of complaints from Castle Mill. Please remember that bonfires must adhere to the OCC code. This bans bonfires on bank holidays and 4 were reported on site on that day. The committee will be discussing the complaint at their next meeting and reporting to members but meanwhile please watch the wind direction to avoid inconveniencing our neighbours.

The OCC code was included in full in this newsletter and is here on the notice board.

From: WHITTON Neil [<mailto:NWHITTON@oxford.gov.uk>]

Sent: 19 October 2010 10:31

To: membership@cripleymeadow.org.uk

Subject: Complaint about Bonfires

Dear Sir/Madam,

This department has recently received a complaint about bonfires from Cripsey meadow Allotments from a resident of Castle Mill. In it he states that the number of bonfires has increased in the last 6 months along with their regularity and length. I have looked on website and your member rule number 13 states "Members must follow Oxford City Council's Code of Practice on Bonfires (see notice board)." However when I visited the site recently there was nothing on the notice board and a smoky bonfire underway on the allotments Could you please make all your members aware that a complaint has been received and if we continue to receive complaints we will investigate them under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. As a first step I would request that you display the code of practice on bonfires on your notice board along with a copy of this email. If you would like to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Neil Whitton (Technical Officer/Environmental Control/Environmental Development/Oxford City Council/Ramsay House/10 St Ebbes Street/Oxford/OX1 1PT/01865 252225/nwhitton@oxford.gov.uk)

NB the OCC code IS on our main notice board and the Island Notice Board and has been since published. I think the officer must have been outside the site and looking at the old board.

Please take care with this issue.

Our neighbours have a right to be smoke free **and** it would be difficult to manage the site without some burning...

Many thanks for your help with this.

Cripsey Meadow Allotment Association Committee

21/10/2010

Dear Wendy,

Many thanks for that, I wasn't aware that there was another notice board inside the site. As you have made the allotment holders aware of the complaint I would now consider the issue closed unless we get further complaints and witness the bonfire causing a nuisance.

Neil Whitton (Technical Officer)