

Fowl policy :

Guidelines for keeping poultry on allotments



Walton Community Council will permit a plot holder to keep a maximum of 4 chickens/bantams on an allotment owned by the council as long as the following rules and guidelines are complied with. The Community Council reserves the right to refuse permission for a plot holder to keep poultry or to insist that a plot holder either removes or reduces the number of birds kept on a plot.

1. The plot holder must notify the Parish Manager to the Community Council, in writing, of his intent to keep chickens.
2. The plot holder must ensure that the chickens do not cause a nuisance to local residents or other plot holders. Cockerels may **NOT** be kept on allotment.
3. The accommodation for the chickens must be secure and maintained in good condition. It must not exceed the tenancy rules on size of structure but must meet the minimum guidelines shown below.
4. The area around the henhouse and run must be maintained and so that it does not attract rodents.
5. Feed must be stored in vermin proof containers.
6. The chickens must be kept in good health and Walton Community Council reserves the right to inspect them and arrange veterinary treatment if the Council believes there to be a welfare issue. The cost of any treatment will be charged to the plot holder.
7. The plot holder **MUST** inform the council of any serious, long term or contagious health problem and the steps being taken to counteract the problem.
8. The plot holder will be responsible for the disposal of any dead birds in accordance with current legislation.
9. The tenant is responsible for the removal of any and all structures and associated items relating to the poultry on termination of tenancy. Any costs to be the responsibility of the tenant. Any cost Walton Community Council incurs cleaning the site after termination will be billed to the outgoing tenant.
10. In line with best practise, structures for the housing of poultry need to be relocated on the plot every 18 months to prevent contamination and illness.

General welfare guidelines.

- Chickens must be kept in groups of at least 2 for companionship purposes.
- You must ensure that they are checked at least once a day by a competent person.
- They must have continuous and plentiful access to suitable feed and water.
- They must have access to grit to aid digestion.
- You must provide both a henhouse and an outdoor run that allows the chickens freedom of movement and the opportunity to exhibit normal behaviour, ie there must be adequate space to turn around without difficulty, to groom themselves, to move around, to stretch their legs, body and wings, to take dust baths and to rest undisturbed.
- The chickens should have continuous daytime access to the outdoor runs.
- Clean and dry bedding material must be provided on a regular basis.
- The henhouse and run should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week, preferably more often. Deep littering systems may **NOT** be used.

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- Chickens kept on the same land for more than a month will need regular worming.
- Land on which chickens are kept for prolonged periods may become “fowl sick” which will prejudice the health of the birds.

Guidelines for the provision of housing.

The henhouse should be a fully enclosed shelter that provides:

- Protection from predators.
- At least 3 square feet of floor space per chicken.
- A draught free environment but with adequate ventilation.
- Warmth in the colder months and shade during the summer.
- Perches and roosting areas that are easily accessible to the birds.
- An adequate number of nesting boxes.

The run should provide:

- Protection from predators.
- At least 4 square feet of floor space per chicken.
- A surface that allows the chickens to take dust baths.

Runs should also be moved on a regular basis to avoid muddy or fowl sick conditions.

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