

## ROEHAMPTON GARDEN SOCIETY

### Plot Inspections - Objectives and Procedure

**All Allotment Plots are governed by the provisions of the Allotments Acts 1908-1950. The tenant undertakes at all times during the tenancy to observe and comply fully with all enactments, local, parochial and other byelaws, orders or regulations affecting the plot.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Ensure plot holders are adhering to conditions in the Allotment Acts and the Tenancy Agreement.
2. Improve the standard of cultivation whilst being mindful of busy life styles and that working a plot is a leisure activity to be enjoyed.
3. Plots are being cultivated:
  - a. Weeds controlled
  - b. Crops growing as expected at the time of year
  - c. At least 60% of the total plot is adequately cultivated at peak growing season months i.e. May to September
4. Crops are being harvested.
5. Ensure plots are appropriately managed such that if the tenancy ceases, the plot does not present an undue burden on potential incoming tenants.
6. Plots are not a likely to be an annoyance to allotment neighbours and in the case of perimeter plots, to householders surrounding the allotment sites.
7. Paths trimmed and have no overhanging plants or other obstructions.
8. Edges of paths are in good condition to reduce the risk of injury.
9. Ensure only cropping trees on dwarf stock are planted with permission and kept pruned so are no higher than approximately 10'.
10. Perennial cropping bushes are pruned appropriately.
11. Assess new tenants' need for advice /support/ encouragement.
12. Assess existing tenants' need for support / downsizing / pruning or removing large trees.
13. No structures erected that have not had agreed permission granted.
14. Ensure any structures are in good condition and are not a safety hazard.
15. Rubbish is not being hoarded on a plot.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Formal Plot inspections usually are carried out:
  - At the end of April/ beginning May and in July
    - Emphasis on cultivation.
    - Control of weeds
    - Identify stone fruit trees that need a good pruning in mid-summer.
    - Ensure paths are in good condition
    - Follow up problems identified at the previous inspection.
  - In November:
    - Emphasis on rubbish clearance.
    - Control of weeds
    - Soundness of structures.
    - Ensure paths are in good condition
    - Identify apple and pear trees that need a good pruning.

2. Usually the Inspection Team consists of the Site Secretary, a non-committee member and Site Manager.
3. Notification of inspections to plot holders:  
Notification will be given either through the Bulletin or email about the next inspection and the particular emphasis. Dated notices are put on notice boards and all allotment gates.
4. Informal inspections may be carried out without notice if required.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

If the plot is found to be satisfactory and no breaches are observed, then the tenant will NOT be contacted.

If, however, problems and breaches are found then the RGS policy "Procedure for dealing with Breach of Allotment Rules" will be followed. The tenant will be advised of the concerns within two weeks of the Inspection. (There are 4 stages: Informal Warning, Serious Warning, Formal Warning and Termination of Tenancy.)