

Burnham Overy Parish Council

Allotment Pest Control Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out Burnham Overy Parish Council's approach to the prevention and control of pests at its allotment sites. It aims to ensure a clean, safe, and healthy environment for all allotment tenants and the surrounding community.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all allotment plots managed by Burnham Overy Parish Council and to all plot holders, contractors, and visitors to the site.

3. Definition of Pests

For the purpose of this policy, "pests" include, but are not limited to:

- Rodents (e.g. rats, mice)
- Invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed)
- Other vermin (e.g. rabbits, wasps, slugs, pigeons) when present in significant numbers

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Parish Council

- Ensure allotment sites are maintained to discourage pests.
- Respond to serious or widespread infestations.
- Engage professional pest control services when needed.
- Provide information and guidance on pest prevention.

4.2 Plot Holders

- Keep plots clean and free from potential food sources and shelter for pests.
- Regularly inspect plots and take action to deter pests.
- Follow guidelines issued by the Council
- Report pest problems to the Council.
- Do not use rodenticides or traps without written Council permission.

5. Prohibited Practices

- No use of poison or traps without written permission.
- Do not leave food waste that could attract pests.
- Avoid accumulating materials that provide shelter for pests.

6. Guidelines to Discourage Rats at Allotment Sites

Discouraging rats at an allotment site is everybody's responsibility. Please follow the guidance below to help prevent them from making your plot their home:

- Turn compost regularly (at least twice a year).
- Place bins on slabs or line with wire mesh to prevent burrowing.
- Inspect bins frequently.
- Do not compost meat, dairy, bones, or cooked food.
- Harvest ripe produce promptly.
- Do not leave discarded produce on the ground.
- Keep plots tidy and free of clutter.
- Destroy produce showing signs of rat damage.
- Rat-proof sheds and greenhouses; block holes.
- Store seeds and bulbs in rodent-proof containers.

Maintaining compost heaps and plots in good condition is the tenant's responsibility. Failure to do so may be treated as a breach of the tenancy agreement.

7. Reporting

All pest sightings or concerns should be reported to the Parish Clerk :

- Email: clerk@burnhamovery-pc.gov.uk

- Phone: 07788516733

The Council will assess the issue and determine appropriate action.

8. Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy or to take reasonable steps to prevent or report pest issues may result in a written warning and, if not rectified, termination of the allotment tenancy.

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if legislation, guidance, or local conditions change.

Adopted: 30 June 2025

Review Date:

Version: 1