STREET AND DISTRICT ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION – RISK ASSESSMENT – Farm Lane

Dear Member, You may be well aware of the hazards and potential hazards of the allotment. However, this is not necessarily the case for all members and in a time of heightened awareness of health and safety issues and with reference to what other allotment organisations have done in this regard, your Committee has drawn up a risk assessment for each of the Association's sites. They will be reviewed on an annual basis. Please do take a look at the assessment below for your site. If you should have any comment or query please do speak to your Site Rep or other member of the Committee.

Hazard	Persons at risk	Control/Monitoring	Responsibility
Accidents with tools & other sharps (glass, nails etc.)	Plot holders	1. Wear boots or other appropriate footwear, gloves as suitable to the task & facial protection if necessary 2. Keep tools well maintained to be safe to use 3. Discard faulty equipment 4. Take care when handling glass, make any protruding nails safe	Plot holders
Uneven ground, trip hazards	Plot holders & visitors	1. Be aware of the state of the ground underfoot 2. Wear footwear with good grip 3. Keep paths and other thoroughfares free of obstacles	Plot holders Paths bordering your plot are your responsibility
Garden chemicals	Plot holders	1. All chemicals should be kept in a locked shed or similar, stored in original containers, clearly labelled and used according to manufacturer's instructions 2. No back pack sprayers to be used 3. Use of chemicals to be avoided/kept to a minimum	Plot holders
Sheds, polytunnels and greenhouses	Plot holders & visitors	1. To be kept in a good, safe condition 2. Ensure securely anchored in case of high winds 3. Removal from site any broken glass	Plot holders
Water butts	Plot holders	1. Garden produce and hands should not be washed with water from water butts – see 'Vermin' below 2. Do not drink water from water butts 3. Research has indicated a possible risk of Legionella see: https://legionellacontrol.com/news/garden-water-butts-legionella/	Plot holders
Water from the south-side ditch	Plot holders	1. Take care when accessing water from the ditch, it is very slippery and purity cannot be guaranteed 2. Do not allow children to play on the ditch bank	Plot holders Site Reps to be aware of this hazard
Public areas	Plot holders & visitors	1. Any trip hazard must be dealt with or reported to a Site Rep 2. All public areas to be kept clear of obstacles: tools, rubbish, water butts, manure etc.	Plot holders Site Reps to be aware of these hazards
Track by the ditch	Plot holders & visitors	1. Track & sides to be kept clear of rubbish – no dumping waste on the back 2. Over growing vegetation to be kept trimmed back	Plot holders – responsible for behind their plot / Site Reps to be aware
Vehicle movement	Plot holders & visitors	1. Maximum speed 5mph, motorists to be alert to pedestrians 2. Pedestrians to be alert to motorists	All

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Hazard	Person at risk	Control/Monitoring	Responsibility
Soft verges	Plot holders & visitors and their vehicles	1. Certain areas are not suitable for vehicles particularly in wet weather, e.g. the back lane.	Plot holders
Vermin	Plot holders	1. All livestock areas to be kept clean 2. Animal foodstuffs to be kept in sealed containers 3. No composting of meat, fish or dairy products or any cooked food 4. Sighting of vermin to be reported to a Site Rep 5. Weil's disease can be contracted from infected rat's urine or contaminated water	Plot holders Site Reps to take action as necessary
Wasp nests	Plot holders & visitors	1. On discovery nests to be left undisturbed 2. Location to be reported to a Committee member 3. Purpose made insecticide only to be used according to instructions3	Plot holders Site Reps to take action as necessary
Soil, compost& manure pathogens e.g. tetanus, E.coli, aspergillus etc.	Plot holders	1. Observe good hand hygiene, consider wearing gloves 2. Cover cuts and abrasions with clean waterproof dressings 3. Avoid inhaling dust from compost etc., consider wearing a mask 4. Ensure you are fully vaccinated against tetanus	Plot holders
Wells/deep holes	Plot holders & visitors	1. All deep holes to be kept covered 2. Ensure that the Committee is aware of any well on your plot 3. The Committee to maintain a record of the location of wells on the site and new plot holders to be informed	Plot holders Association Committee
Flammable liquids	Plot holders	1. Maximum quantity to be stored 5L, in purpose designed container 2. To be kept in locked shed or similar 3. Petrol powered machinery ditto	Plot holders
Fires	Plot holders	1. Garden waste and white smoke only 2. Only when prevailing wind is suitable 3. To be kept under control and not left unattended	Plot holders
Asbestos	Plot holders	1. Inform affected members of presence of asbestos containing materials on their plot 2. Asbestos containing materials not to be worked on or otherwise disturbed	Site Reps Association Committee

GENERAL GOOD PRACTICE

At all times, each individual using the allotments must act in a responsible, considerate manner mindful of others working on/visiting the allotments. • Each individual is responsible for his/her safety whilst working on their plot especially whilst working alone • Plot holders must report any observed hazard/potential hazard not dealt with to a Site Rep • No alcohol should be consumed before or during use of power tools •Have a first aid kit readily available on your plot

NB. Children are at particular risk to all of the above mentioned hazards. They must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times across the site.

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Reviewed by Julie Hillman (Secretary S&DAA) & members of the committee Date 20 Sep 2025