WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

6. Werrington Parish Council Allotments Risk Assessment

Hazard and risk	People at Risk	Werrington Parish Council Controls	Additional
Slips, trips and falls on uneven ground	Tenants, visitors, children, staff and contractors	• Tenants keep paths and plot entrances reasonably clear. Weeds, hoses, tools and materials should not obstruct communal paths. • Regular inspection of communal paths. Tenants to remove trip hazards from their plots. Repair significant defects where identified.	
Uneven/slippery paths, particularly in wet or icy weather	Tenants, visitors, children, staff and contractors	• Suitable footwear advised. Tenants made aware of weather-related hazards • Inspect paths periodically and arrange remedial work where reasonably practicable.	
Use of hand tools such as spades, forks, hoes and secateurs	Tenants, visitors, children, staff and contractors	• Tenants responsible for using suitable tools safely and keeping tools in good condition. Tools should be stored safely when not in use. • Remind tenants of safe tool use. Defective tools should not be used.	
Cuts from sharp tools	Tenants, visitors	• Sharp tools to be handled carefully and stored safely. Children should not have unsupervised access to tool	

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Strains, sprains and back injuries from lifting	Tenants, volunteers	• Tenants encouraged to avoid lifting excessive loads and use suitable lifting techniques. • Encourage use of wheelbarrows/trolleys and assistance for heavy or awkward items.	
Manual handling of compost, soil, manure and bags	Tenants	• Avoid overloading bags. Use mechanical assistance where possible. • Provide guidance on safe lifting and carrying.	
Working at height, including pruning trees or structures	Tenants	• Work at height should be avoided • Tenants should not undertake high-risk tree work themselves. Professional assistance should be considered for dangerous or high trees.	
Struck by falling branches	Tenants, visitors	• Trees and large vegetation to be monitored. • Arrange inspection of significant trees where necessary and remove dangerous branches. Keep people away from unsafe areas.	
Use of powered garden equipment	Tenants	• Only competent adults to operate equipment. Manufacturer's instructions to be followed. Appropriate PPE to be worn. • Tenants to ensure equipment is maintained and safely stored off site • Tenants operate equipment at own risk	

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Lawnmowers/strimmers	Tenants, visitors, children, staff and contractors	• Operators to keep others away from machinery while operating. Eye/foot protection recommended as appropriate. • Remind tenants that machinery must never be left running unattended. • Contractors own Risk Assessments • Tenants use own equipment at own risk	
Petrol and other flammable materials	Tenants, visitors, children, staff and contractors	• Not allowed to be stored on site. Keep away from ignition sources. • Follow fire-safety requirements	
Bonfires and burning garden waste	Tenants, visitors, children, staff and contractors	• Bonfires only where permitted by allotment rules. Fires to be supervised and fully extinguished. • Clear rules on permitted burning, weather conditions, location and extinguishing fires. No burning of plastics, rubber or hazardous materials is not allowed.	
Smoke from bonfires	Tenants, neighbours, road users	• Fires should not be lit where smoke could cause danger or significant nuisance. • Suspend burning during unsuitable weather or when smoke may affect roads/neighbours	

Fire spreading to sheds/vegetation	Tenants, visitors	• Bonfires kept away from sheds, fences, buildings, dry vegetation and combustible materials. • Site rules to specify safe fire locations and minimum clearance	
Storage of chemicals, fertilisers and pesticides	Tenants, children, visitors, wildlife	• No chemical to be used on site or stored on site	
Animal and insect bites/stings	Tenants, children, visitors	• Tenants advised to take care around wasps, bees, rodents and other animals. • Report significant infestations or dangerous nests to the Parish Council	
Contaminated water / water butts	Tenants, children	• Water containers kept covered where practicable. Do not drink allotment water unless confirmed potable.	
Sheds, greenhouses and structures	Tenants, visitors	• Structures maintained by individual tenants must be kept in safe condition. • Unsafe structures to be repaired, secured or removed.	
Damaged fencing/gates	Tenants, visitors	• Boundary fencing and gates to be inspected periodically. • Repair damaged fencing/gates as soon as reasonably practicable.	
Unauthorised access/vandalism	Tenants, visitors	• Secure boundary and gates where provided. Tenants encouraged to report damage or suspicious activity • Maintain secure gates	

Children on allotment site	Children, parents/carer	• Children must be supervised by a responsible adult. Dangerous tools, chemicals and machinery must be secured.	
Dogs on site	Tenants, visitors	• Dogs should be kept under control and must not cause nuisance or contamination of other plots. •	
Extreme heat/sun exposure	Tenants, volunteers	• Avoid prolonged work during the hottest part of the day. Drink water and use sun protection. • Tenants advised to stop work if experiencing symptoms of heat illness.	
Cold, ice, snow and severe weather	Tenants, volunteers	• Tenants advised to avoid visiting during dangerous weather conditions. •	
Lone working	Tenants	• Tenants should inform someone of their whereabouts when undertaking potentially hazardous work. • Tenants should avoid high-risk activities when alone.	
Emergency vehicle access	Tenants, emergency services	• Main access routes kept clear. Tenants must not obstruct access with vehicles, materials or structures. • Regularly check emergency access routes.	

Vehicle movement/parking	Tenants, visitors	• Vehicles kept to designated areas where possible. Drivers to proceed slowly and with consideration for pedestrians. •	
Waste, rubbish and discarded materials	Tenants, visitors	• Tenants responsible for keeping plots tidy and disposing of waste appropriately. • Regular site inspections.	
Glass, metal, wire or other sharp waste	Tenants, visitors	• Sharp waste must not be left exposed. • Remove hazardous waste promptly and require tenants to dispose	
Asbestos-containing materials or suspected asbestos	Tenants, visitors	• Do not disturb, cut, drill or remove suspected asbestos-containing materials. • Tenants to report to Parish Council	
Fly-tipping or hazardous waste	Tenants, visitors	• Report suspected hazardous waste to the Parish Council. Do not handle unknown substances.	
Pests and vermin	Tenants, visitors	• Good housekeeping and secure food/compost storage.	
Glass in greenhouses	Tenants, visitors	• Not allowed on site	
Emergency incident/fire	Tenants, visitors	• Emergency services to be contacted where necessary. Access routes kept clear	
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