



SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT SITES DURING COVID 19 OUTBREAK

Saltash Town Council Allotments remain open. The National Allotment Society are consulting with central government but as we understand the situation at the moment it is still permitted to visit your allotment plot, to take daily exercise on your own or with a member of your household. The rules and instructions could change in the future.

It is vitally important that you follow all the advice about social distancing and hygiene and not gather together on site. It is appropriate that anyone attending the allotment takes care to stay the appropriate distance from others, avoid body contact and wash your hands on a regular basis. Any plot holder who is self-isolating because a household member is ill with Coronavirus COVID-19 should not be visiting the site.

Information from The National Allotment Society is as follows:

The government is presently advising the population to stay at home and practice social distancing, whilst being allowed to take one form of exercise a day. If working your allotment is to carry on being seen as legitimate exercise then it is imperative that plot-holders follow all the guidelines, allotment sites are as risky as anywhere else.

Although it is perfectly OK and within government guidelines to visit the plot as a household, we think that now is the time to consider working your plot in isolation i.e. not with household members and if you can stay away for a few weeks to do so.

It is vitally important that you follow all the advice about social distancing and hygiene in the points below and not gather together on site.

Driving to the plot. We are aware that in recent days there has been conflicting statements from police forces about driving to your plot. A briefing has now been issued from the College of Policing and the National Police Chief's Council that advises forces to: -

Use your judgement and common sense; for example, people will want to exercise locally and may need to travel to do so, we don't want the public sanctioned for travelling a reasonable distance to exercise. We should reserve enforcement only for individuals who have not responded to Engage, Explain, and Encourage, where public health is at risk.

If you need to drive a reasonable distance to get to your plot, then this guidance would suggest that it is permissible to do so. However, please walk to the plot if at all possible. Any plot-holder who is **self-isolating** because a household member is ill with coronavirus should not be visiting the site.

Members should take the following precautionary measures:

- Keep hand sanitiser in your shed and wash your hands regularly
- Use hand sanitiser before opening and after closing any gate locks
- Wash hands when you get home
- DO NOT gather together for a chat even if you are 2 metres apart
- Observe “Social Distancing” with each other 2-3 metres
- If you take your children to the plot, ensure that they stay within its confines and do not run around on communal paths and spaces
- Do not share tools.

We are living through a crisis, the likes of which none of us has experienced before, not since war time has the community spirit that exists on allotment sites been more important. We must all consider vulnerable families, friends and fellow plot-holders and give assistance where needed. Please remember to look out for one another during these very difficult times.

If you have any concerns or queries do not hesitate to contact Saltash Town Council on 01752 844846 option 3 OR enquiries@saltash.gov.uk