



Allotment Bonfire Guidance

Felixstowe Town Council accepts that allotment tenants, on occasion, will want, or need to dispose of allotment generated waste by means of a bonfire. If used sensitively, the occasional bonfire should not be a major issue. There are no specific laws against having a bonfire, or when you can have one, but there are Acts that can deal with any Nuisances they can cause. If you are having a bonfire, your neighbours may be annoyed by the smoke and smell created. This can stop people enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended), there is a duty to investigate potential Statutory Nuisances, including bonfire complaints. If it is determined that a Statutory Nuisance exists, is likely to occur, or has previously existed and is likely to recur, then an Abatement Notice may be served.

Where such a notice is contravened or not complied with, enforcement action may follow which could result in prosecution and a fine. The maximum penalty for failing to comply with the requirements of such a notice is a £5,000 fine. Should an Abatement Notice be served, your allotment tenancy will be reviewed and may be terminated.

Here are some simple steps you can take to reduce the impact of your bonfire, or to avoid having one altogether:

- Compost garden waste or use an alternative disposal service for green waste.
- DO NOT burn any oily rags, rubber, plastics, damp garden waste or other materials that would create heavy smoke or toxic fumes
- Never light a bonfire when our neighbours have washing drying, or are out enjoying their gardens or have windows open.
- Advise your nearest neighbours before you light a bonfire so they can be prepared for any minor inconvenience that may arise.
- Choose the time of day and weather conditions that will cause the least inconvenience to neighbours. e.g. being aware of wind direction.
- Never leave your fire to smoulder for long periods and do not allow a bonfire to continue burning beyond dusk.
- Burn material quickly in small quantities in a hot fire so the minimum amount of smoke is created.
- Choose your bonfire site carefully, well away from trees, fences and windows.
- Beware of attempting bonfires on very windy days as it can so easily get out of control.
- Have a hose-pipe and buckets of water handy just in case.
- Never leave a fire unattended.

For more information about bonfires or smoke nuisance please contact the Town Council or the Felixstowe Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (FSALG).