



**Ringwood**  
Town Council

# Allotments – A Plain-English Guide (2026)

Ringwood Town Council

## Important:

This guide is for information only.

If there is any difference between this guide and the formal Allotment Rules or your tenancy agreement, the formal Rules and agreement will always take priority.

This guide explains the **Ringwood Town Council Allotment Rules 2026** in everyday language.

## Who can have an allotment?

- You must be **18 or over** and live in the **Ringwood parish**.
- Plots are offered in **date order** from the waiting list.
- While there is a waiting list, tenants can usually only have **one full plot**.
- People from neighbouring parishes may be offered a plot only if no suitable Ringwood residents are waiting.

## Deposits (new from 2026)

- New tenancies from **30 September 2026** require a **£50 deposit**.
- The deposit is refundable if you leave the plot **clean and tidy**.
- **Any deposit not claimed within six months of the end of the tenancy will be kept by the Council**, after reasonable attempts to contact you.

## Looking after your plot

You are expected to:

- keep your plot tidy and cultivated,
- garden in a way that makes sense for the **season and size of your plot**,
- use recognised gardening methods (including no-dig or raised beds),
- avoid causing problems for neighbouring plots or future tenants.

- Plots will be inspected, and inspections are carried out **proportionately and fairly**.

## Behaviour on site

- Do not block paths or access points.
- Do not cause nuisance or annoyance to other plot holders.
- Dogs are allowed only if kept **on a lead and under control**.
- You must not sub-let or give your plot to someone else.

## Trees, hedges and boundaries

- Trees over **2 metres high** need written permission.
- Hedges must be kept trimmed.
- Fences and gates must be kept in good repair.
- Barbed wire must **not** be used next to paths.

## Sheds, polytunnels, greenhouses and other structures

### Do I need permission?

Yes. You must get **written permission from the Council** before putting up:

- sheds,
- polytunnels,
- greenhouses,
- fruit cages,
- netted structures,
- or anything similar.

### What does the Council look at?

- Permission is based on:
  - **size and height,**
  - **where it is placed,**
  - **materials used,**
  - **how it is anchored,**
  - whether it can be **removed if needed.**

The key issue is **scale and safety**, not whether something is called a polytunnel or a greenhouse.

There are **maximum shed sizes** depending on the site, and **asbestos is never allowed**.

### Who is responsible?

- All structures are entirely at the tenant's risk.
- The Council does not insure sheds, polytunnels, crops or personal items.
- You are responsible for any damage or injury caused.

- You may arrange your own insurance if you wish.
- If a structure becomes unsafe, poorly maintained, or causes problems, the Council can require it to be altered or removed.

## Animals

- You may keep **hens (no cockerels)** and **rabbits**, as allowed by law.
- Housing for animals still needs **Council permission**.
- Animals must be kept humanely, cleanly, and without causing nuisance.
- Animals must not be kept for business or sale.

## Water use

- Standpipes are provided.
- You must not connect sprinklers or automatic watering systems.
- Open containers (e.g. baths) are not allowed.
- Covered water butts are permitted.

## Composting and waste

- Composting garden waste is allowed.
- Compost heaps must not exceed **3m x 3m** in total.
- No household waste may be brought onto the site.
- Compost must be managed to avoid vermin.
- Carpet must **not** be used as ground cover.

## Bonfires

- Bonfires are only allowed at the Upper Kingston site.
- They are not permitted at other sites.
- Fires must be supervised, considerate of neighbours, and fully extinguished.

## Things you must not do

- Use the plot for trade or business.
- Sell produce.
- Use weed-burners.
- Park vehicles outside designated areas.

## Rent and ending a tenancy

- Rent is payable annually on **29 September**.
- If you leave part-way through the year, part of the rent may be refunded.
- The Council can end a tenancy if rent is unpaid or rules are repeatedly broken.
- Items left behind after eviction may be removed by the Council.

## **If you're unsure – ask first**

If you are planning something new or unusual, **please contact the Council before going ahead**. It is almost always easier to agree things in advance.

## **Final reminder**

This guide explains the Rules in plain English.

The formal Allotment Rules 2026 always take precedence.