



Produce Theft - Rubbish Dumping - Site Security

It is dispiriting that we have to publish a special bulletin under this heading, as there appear to have been a number of recent incidents in which tenants have had produce stolen from their plots and rubbish dumped near their plots.

Produce Theft

This has been a difficult growing year for all of us, but for some tenants, it has been particularly disheartening to have their produce stolen. Unfortunately, these incidents do not appear to be confined to one area of the allotment site. Sadly, it would appear that these thefts are not necessarily being carried out by individuals from outside the allotment site. This is totally unacceptable.

All tenants are strongly reminded that they must not enter another tenant's plot without permission or remove any produce from it, even if that produce is lying on the ground, commonly known as *windfalls*.

Paragraph 15 of the current (2026) Tenancy Agreement states:

'The Tenant shall not trespass onto or remove any item(s) or vegetation from another plot, unless permission by the Council has been given.'

Paragraph 4.7 of the 2027 Tenancy Agreement also states:

'The Tenant shall not trespass onto or remove any item(s) or vegetation from another plot, unless written permission by the Council has been given.'

Entering another tenant's plot and/or removing produce without the required permission is a clear breach of the Tenancy Agreement and could result in the termination of the offender's tenancy.

Reporting Produce Theft

The Committee encourages all tenants who suspect that produce has been stolen from their plots to report the incident online to [Thames Valley Police](#) and obtain a crime or incident reference number.

When completing the report, you will need to provide the allotment site's postcode, **RG5 3AA**, along with a house number. As the allotment site does not have its own house number, Thames Valley Police has advised the Committee to use the house number of the property directly opposite the main entrance to the allotment site: **154**.

Once you have entered these details, you must make it clear in the submission form that the theft occurred on the allotment site and **not at the residential property at number 154**.

Thames Valley Police should then be able to record the incident as having occurred on the allotment site, process the report and contact you if any further information is required.

Reporting these thefts will help the Committee establish how many incidents are occurring and build a clearer understanding of the extent and distribution of the problem across the whole site.

We ask all tenants to remain vigilant, respect their fellow tenants and report any suspected thefts. Everyone should be able to enjoy the fruits of their hard work without fear of having their produce stolen.

Rubbish Dumping and Fly-Tipping

There are still reports of rubbish being dumped across the allotment site; this is totally unacceptable. The Committee has made considerable efforts to establish and promote appropriate recycling options for all types of rubbish, so it is particularly disappointing that a minority of tenants appear willing to abuse these facilities at the expense of everyone else.



Paragraph 4.4 of the Tenancy Agreement states:

'The Tenant shall not deposit non-compostable material, whether from their plot or from off-site, anywhere on site as this will be considered fly-tipping.'

Fly-tipping is a serious matter and may result in the termination of a tenancy agreement.

Please report any incidents of fly-tipping to the Committee via the usual email address as soon as possible after witnessing them. Your prompt reporting will help the Committee address this unacceptable behaviour and maintain the allotment site for the benefit of all tenants.

Site Security

In light of the incidents outlined above, we will be increasing the use of CCTV across the whole of the allotment site.

We are disappointed that this step has become necessary. However, the Committee is working hard to make the allotment site a safer and more pleasant place for everyone to visit and work, without tenants having to worry about their produce being stolen or rubbish being dumped on or near their plots.

We hope that increased CCTV coverage will help deter these unacceptable activities and provide greater reassurance to all tenants.

Finally, a reminder. All children and dogs must not be allowed to roam free across the site. Dogs should always be on a lead and children supervised by their parents and/or guardians.

Many thanks &

Kind Regards

Mike McNamara – Chair

Woodley Allotments Tenants Association at Reading Road

chair@woodley-allotments.org.uk