

Seven Kings and Goodmayes Allotment Society Ltd

Amended General Rules (Byelaws) amended December 2025

Membership and subscriptions

1. Members must be shareholders in the Society. (See Governing Rules 7-9.)
2. (a) Plots are rented from the Society on an annual basis, the rent being payable in advance
(b) New members have a period of three months to make progress on their plot or they may be subject to summary termination.
(c) Rents and subscriptions become due on 1st October each year
(d) Members must pay subscriptions and rents by 1st December each year or their lease will be terminated.
3. (a) Membership cards are NOT transferable, but can be used by immediate members of the plotholder's family
b) Members are responsible for the conduct of all guests. In the event of a the conduct of a guest being unacceptable the member may be subject to expulsion proceedings as outlined in the Governing Rules of the Seven Kings and Goodmayes Allotment Society (rule 11).
4. No member shall sub-let his plot or any part thereof.

Responsibilities of members

Care of sites and paths

5. Members are expected to take part in the maintenance of sites and the running of the Society wherever possible.
6. Plotholders are properly to cultivate and manage the land for Allotment gardens and Horticultural purposes only, to keep and leave same reasonably free from weeds, well-manured and in good heart and condition.

Monoculture is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** and members must rotate crops to prevent damage to the soil and the promotion of disease.

Members' plots **MUST NOT** be planted with 50% or more of a single type of plant, such as potatoes, beans, etc. Stewards will instruct members to remove plants if this limit is exceeded.

Members may sell any excess crops they produce at harvest time, but they

MUST NOT grow to produce an excess. Any member engaging in commercial activities will have their membership terminated.

Should a member allow their plot or paths to become overgrown or dangerous, the society reserves the right, after a written or verbal warning, to undertake grass cutting, strimming or relevant remedial work on the member's behalf. The member will be liable to be charged for this work at the hourly minimum wage rate plus the society's normal machine hire charge for the time required. This charge will be added to the plotholder's renewal fee for the following year.

7. Members may not keep poultry or other livestock. However, beehives may be placed subject to committee approval.
8. Members must not plant trees except fruit trees on dwarfing rootstocks.
9. (a) Members are to arrange their plots so that side paths are not less than 1' 6" wide (0.46 metres), each member keeping his half clearly defined, free from weeds and long grass.
(b) Main paths, and paths along boundary fences, must be maintained at a minimum width of 2' 6". (0.76 metres)
(c) Roadways and cart tracks must be 10' minimum width (3 metres)
10. Members must ensure paths adjacent to their plots are safe to walk on, free from obstructions and uneven surfaces. This is a requirement of the Society's insurance policies. Members may be held personally liable for any injury caused by uneven paths.
11. In view of the rising cost of water, members must report any leaks however small as soon as possible and may take action to turn off water supplies if leaks occur. Members must not turn on water supplies without authorisation from a site steward.
Members must not interfere with, or connect hosepipes to Society water supplies, and may only remove water from mains-supplied tanks by use of a watering can. Buckets must not be used to water plots. However, members may use hosepipes where these are connected to external sources – e.g. from private homes adjoining sites or from containers set up to take run-off from sheds or tool boxes."

Compost heaps and bonfires

12. Members must not do, or suffer to be done, anything which might become a nuisance to other members or to owners or occupiers of adjoining premises or property. This covers compost and manure dumps and bonfires

on plots which must be located as far from houses as is reasonably practical. Manure must be removed to plots as soon as possible to avoid nuisance to neighbours.

13. In view of fire risks, nuisance to neighbours and requirements of Society insurance policies Members must not have bonfires at times notified by the Committee. Notices will be displayed on gates.
14. Members must ensure they have means of extinguishing bonfires (e.g. watering cans or buckets of water) readily to hand. They must ensure bonfires are completely out before leaving the site. Members failing to comply with this and rule 9 could be held personally liable for any damage caused.
15. Members must not use carpets to cover allotments

Structures on allotments – ALL STRUCTURES THAT ARE NOT TOOL BOXES MUST RECEIVE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE COMMITTEE

16. No erection of any kind is allowed on the plots, other than a tool chest, cold frame or compost box, which must stand at least one foot (0.31 metres) inside the boundary of the plot, and must not exceed 3' 3" (1 metre) in height. Sheds over this height are permitted subject to the following rules and to the stipulations, covenants and clauses contained in Leases.
 - (i) An application must be made to, and approved by, the Society's committee on an application form.
 - (ii) The allotment shed will be supplied, erected and maintained at the members own expense and will remain the sole responsibility of the member.
 - (iii) Only one allotment shed is to be erected per 10 rod allotment. For smaller allotments a dispensation will be granted only on application to the Society's committee.
 - (iv) Any allotment shed must be no larger than 1.2m wide, 1.8m long and 2.1m high (4' x 6' x 7') No part, mast or pole attached to the shed will exceed 2m height.
 - (v) The shed will be erected within the members allotment.. No part, attachment or appendage to the shed will extend outside the boundary of the allotment area.

- (vi) Allotment sheds shall be made of wood or metal. Brick, concrete or other blocks are not allowed. The use of recycled doors, windows, sheet metal or wood will not be allowed unless approved by the Society's committee.
- (vii) Concrete or solid brick bases are not permitted.
- (viii) The total glazed area must not exceed 1.9 square metres (21 square feet) and shall be of plastic material or protected by a shutter.
- (ix) The shed shall be secured to the ground to prevent:
 - a) movement from high winds or other adverse weather conditions
 - b) malicious intent by any unauthorized person or persons
- (x) It will be the members responsibility to ensure that the shed structure is maintained in a safe and secure manner and poses no hazard or danger to the member or members of the Society.
- (xi) Plastic polytunnels are permitted but must not exceed the size of permitted sheds. **Written permission is required from the committee.** Members erecting structures without permission may be asked to remove them or be charged to clear the site. No internal illumination is allowed.
- (xii) No claims for loss or damage can be made to the Society
- (xiii) All property, equipment and materials (including sheds and tool chests) stored on land managed by the Seven Kings and Goodmayes Allotment Society Ltd is done so at the owners risk and at no time, during the owners membership, will be the responsibility of the Society.
- (xiv) Storage of any horticultural chemicals, compounds, liquids or flammable liquids will be in a metal chest or box and secured either by a security lock or a padlock and hasp.
- (xv) It is the members responsibility to ensure that the shed has appropriate security measures and is secure against theft or damage of the structure or contents. **The use of audible alarms is not permitted.**
- (xvi) If any of the aforementioned conditions are contravened, either deliberately or inadvertently, the Society's Committee will issue a written notice to the member stating the nature of the contravention and the required rectification. After receipt of such written notice the member will have 6 weeks in which to undertake the necessary rectification/s. If the rectification has not been completed within this time the Committee reserve the right to undertake any or all of the following actions:

- a) carry out the necessary rectification and charge the member with all costs incurred
 - b) revoke permission to erect a semi-permanent structure on the allotment and remove the structure and contents and charge the member with all costs incurred.
- (xvii) On termination or cessation of membership of the Seven Kings and Goodmayes Allotment Society Ltd the ex- member must remove the shed or tool chest and contents, at their own expense, within 2 weeks of ceasing membership.
- (xviii) If after 3 weeks the shed and/or contents has not been removed the shed and its contents will become the property of the Seven Kings and Goodmayes Allotment Society Ltd and will be liable to be disposed of as the Society's Committee sees fit. Any monies incurred or raised resulting from such disposal will be the responsibility of the Society

Children

- 17. Children must be accompanied at all times by adults who are members and who must be held responsible for their conduct.

Dogs

- 18. Quiet and well-behaved dogs only are allowed on allotment grounds provided they are kept on the owners plot and tied up. Any excrement must be cleared up by the plot holder.

Other

- 19. All gates must be closed, and where applicable, locked both on entering and leaving allotments, as a safeguard against unauthorized entry by non-members.
- 20. Allotment members must not copy allotment site keys nor allow site keys to be copied without prior authorization by the Committee.
- 21. Complaints should be made first to the Ground Steward or other committee member on the ground, and, if not settled, referred to the Secretary.
- 22. The terms of tenancy are subject to certain stipulations, covenants and clauses contained in Leases granted by the Redbridge Borough Council. Acceptance of Membership implies and constitutes an agreement to carry out the Rules to the best of one's ability.

23. Any breach of the General Rules (Byelaws) or Governing Rules (Company Rules) renders the Member liable to expulsion procedures in accordance with the Governing Rules.
24. The society will ensure that the raised beds constructed at Goodmayes Lane will be allocated to gardeners unable to garden a standard allotment plot by reason of disability, or to those who can no longer manage a larger plot.