

Harlow Hill Allotment Association

POLICY ON BONFIRES

(Revised October 2021)

Harrogate Borough Council's bonfire guidance states that:

"We discourage the burning of garden and household waste as the smoke arising from bonfires often causes a nuisance to neighbours, pollutes the air and can give rise to a traffic hazard. We investigate bonfire complaints and will take enforcement action where the burning is impacting the environment, is causing a nuisance or is a breach of the person's waste duty of care responsibilities.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 it is an offence to dispose of waste in a way likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. You should not burn waste that is likely to create excessive smoke or noxious fumes, for example, household rubbish, treated wood, material covered in plastic, foam or paints, plastics, tyres etc."

As far as possible, plot holders should avoid having fires. Only dry, woody material can be burned. Fires are only permitted at the following times.

- **Winter** (October to March) on the first Saturday in each month; fire to be out before 12 noon; **(However, it is likely the material will be too wet to burn without nuisance on most winter Saturdays).**
- **Summer** (April to September) on the first Saturday in each month; fire to be out before 8:00am.

The following National Allotment Association guidelines (in their leaflet, Oct 2021) **must be followed:**

- Always observe the simple courtesy of letting your neighbours know when you intend to light the fire - this includes neighbours on the allotment as well as householders nearby.
- Always check the stack intended for burning to look for hibernating hedgehogs and other animals that may be in it. Start the bonfire at a safe distance away from the stack.
- Smoke hangs in the air on damp days and in the evening; so try and avoid lighting a fire under such conditions.
- Avoid burning on windy days as the prevailing wind direction may blow smoke or sparks directly into neighbouring properties.
- Only burn dry material and NEVER burn household rubbish or anything containing plastic, foam or paint. Do NOT take rubbish to the site to burn.
- Never under any circumstances use an accelerator (e.g. petrol) to get the bonfire started.
- Never leave the bonfire unattended, always wait until everything has burned down before leaving the site.
- Never use water to douse a bonfire; it may appear as if the fire has been safely put out but the water only serves to superheat the ashes and they could re-ignite some hours later. When you have to leave the bonfire site, always throw soil or sand over it to smother the heat source.