



## Policy for keeping Chickens on Allotment Plots

Revision June 2024

The following policy is devised for the keeping of chickens on allotments with prior permission from the Parish Council. The policy supports the [Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens and Pullets: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-on-farm-welfare/poultry-welfare-recommendations>](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-on-farm-welfare/poultry-welfare-recommendations).

If a tenant has received permission from the Parish Council to keep chickens it does not automatically allow the tenant to keep other livestock, and in that instance separate permission must be sought.

### Minimum requirements for keeping chickens

- At least 1 square metre floor area per bird
- A perch to stand on while they sleep
- Kept in a coop which is cleaned weekly with fresh bedding
- An exercise space or 'run' which they can access daily
- A nesting box filled with animal safe wood shavings/straw for egg-laying
- Access to fresh water at all times in a suitable water feeder. These should be closely monitored during cold weather due to risk of freezing and risk of water being inaccessible
- Shade on hot sunny days
- A daily welfare visit

The Parish Council may seek veterinary advice regarding any livestock which appear to be suffering or neglected.

### Parish Council requirements

- A maximum of 12 chickens per coop per 5 pole allotment garden plot
- If a tenant allows the number of chickens to be kept on the site to exceed the maximum permitted number, they must reduce their stock to the permitted number within 6 months
- No more than 25% of the allotment garden plot should be occupied by permitted livestock, the other 75% being used for cultivation
- The feeder must be kept off the ground and any stored feed must be in a sealed bin or container to keep it secure from rodents
- Any rodents attracted to any chicken housing must be dealt with by the tenant without the use of poison
- Any rodent infestation must be reported to the Parish Council
- No cockerels are permitted to be kept on the allotment garden site

**Avian Influenza**

In the event that Avian Influenza is reported in the local area it is duty of the tenant to ensure all measures are put in place to adhere to the guidelines to reduce the spread.

As of October 2024 it is mandatory for tenants to register as a bird keeper regardless of the number kept. The responsibility to register birds rests with the tenant, not the Parish Council. From time to time the Parish Council may request evidence that this has been done. Visit this link to find out how to register as a bird keeper: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms>.