

Harlow Hill Allotment Association

POLICY ON BONFIRES

(Revised January 2013)

A quasi-official body, the National Society for Clean Air and the Environment (NSCA) gives guidance on Garden Bonfires in its leaflet of December 2001. This states that though there are no specific bye-laws to prohibit bonfires, causing a nuisance through a bonfire does breach the Environmental Protection Act. It advises that other means of disposing of waste material should be used wherever possible.

The Environmental Protection Officer, Harrogate Borough Council, has complained about fires on allotments. She does not regard bonfires as an acceptable way of disposing of waste. Our insurance policy has conditions about the burning of debris on the site

The Allotment Association is required to have a stated policy on bonfires. The current (Jan 2013) policy is as follows:

All herbaceous waste plant material should be composted, or, exceptionally, removed from the site. Plot holders can burn woody waste material on their plots **on the evening of 5th November** but they should make their own arrangements, possibly in cooperation with friends and neighbours. It is unlikely that there will be a suitable site for a large communal bonfire.

As far as possible, plot holders should avoid having other fires, though they may burn woody material on their plots at the following times:

- Winter (October to March): before 12 noon on the first Saturday of each month.(But it is likely the material will too wet to burn without nuisance on most winter Saturdays)
- Summer (April to September): before 8.00 am on the first Saturday of each month.

In all cases the plot holder must ensure that:

- the material is dry
- the weather is suitable
- there is no nuisance to the surrounding houses
- the fire is supervised at all times
- the fire is extinguished before leaving the plot
- the fire consists exclusively of woody material grown on the plot (no rubbish, carpets, foam, plastic, rubber etc.)
- the fire is in a cleared area 10m from any property
- there is plenty of water in the nearest barrel and a bucket is ready