

Policy on Insufficient Cultivation Issue 4.2

At the start of each season and certainly for newly let allotments, a reasonably prompt and enthusiastic start is expected, given there is a long waiting list.

If by 1st May an established allotment falls below the general standard expected, the licensee should make the first approach to discuss the reasons. If SMCA judge an allotment is being insufficiently cultivated the allotment holder will be sent this policy and invited to address the matter.

If there is a continuing shortfall in the commitment that can be sustained – either through ill health or other time pressures – expedient solutions are

- 1) To swap for a smaller plot with another allotment holder
- 2) To reduce the plot size and let out part to a new licensee.

If no other solutions are available, but the other time pressures are temporary, the plot may still have to be surrendered. The licensee can then be given a priority place on the waiting list for a new plot when one becomes available.

If no significant action is taken within two weeks of the policy being issued then one week's termination notice will be served to allow the plot to be cleared and relet.

Licences are granted for one year. If at the end of the season it is judged insufficient use has been made of the allotment, it is likely an invitation will not be made to renew the licence. Allotment holders will be advised of this in October and invited to clear the allotment by the end of the year. Even if the Club omits this stage, it still has the right to refuse an invitation to renew the licence in any circumstances it considers appropriate to the situation.

SMCA cannot make a value judgment as to the reasonableness of the cause why the level of commitment cannot be maintained, whether short or long term.

Dated 29Mar26