



Allotment Bonfire Guidance

Felixstowe Town Council accepts that allotment tenants, on occasion, will want or need to dispose of allotment-generated waste by means of a bonfire. If used sensitively, the occasional bonfire should not be a major issue. While there are no specific national laws banning bonfires, Felixstowe Town Council has introduced restrictions to minimise disruption and environmental impact.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended), there is a duty to investigate potential statutory nuisances, including bonfire complaints. If it is determined that a statutory nuisance exists, is likely to occur, or has previously existed and is likely to recur, then an Abatement Notice may be served.

Where such a notice is contravened or not complied with, enforcement action may follow which could result in prosecution and a fine. The maximum penalty for failing to comply with the requirements of such a notice is a £5,000 fine. Should an Abatement Notice be served, your allotment tenancy will be reviewed and may be terminated.

Bonfire Restrictions

To minimise disruption and potential hazards, bonfires will not be permitted on any allotment sites between **1st June and 30th September** each year. This restriction aims to prevent issues caused by summer weather conditions, including increased risk of fire and greater impact on neighbouring properties.

Best Practices for Bonfires (Permitted Periods Only: 1st October – 31st May)

If you choose to have a bonfire outside of the restricted period, please follow these steps to reduce its impact:

- Compost garden waste or use an alternative disposal service for green waste.
- DO NOT burn any oily rags, rubber, plastics, damp garden waste, or other materials that would create heavy smoke or toxic fumes.
- Never light a bonfire when neighbours have washing drying, are out enjoying their gardens, or have windows open.
- Advise your nearest neighbours before you light a bonfire so they can be prepared for any minor inconvenience that may arise.
- Choose the time of day and weather conditions that will cause the least inconvenience to neighbours, e.g., being aware of wind direction.
- Never leave your fire to smoulder for long periods and ensure it is fully extinguished before leaving the site.
- Burn material quickly in small quantities in a hot fire so the minimum amount of smoke is created.
- Choose your bonfire site carefully, well away from trees, fences, and windows.
- Beware of attempting bonfires on very windy days as they can easily get out of control.
- Have a hosepipe and buckets of water handy just in case.
- Never leave a fire unattended.

For more information about bonfires or smoke nuisance, please contact the Town Council or the Felixstowe Allotment Association.