



FELIXSTOWE

TOWN COUNCIL

Allotment Bonfire Policy

1. Introduction

Felixstowe Town Council is committed to ensuring that allotment sites are managed safely and responsibly, with due regard for neighbouring residents and the wider environment. Bonfire smoke can cause nuisance and potential harm, particularly to individuals with respiratory or heart conditions. This policy sets out the rules governing bonfires on all Felixstowe Town Council allotment sites.

2. Permitted Dates

Bonfires may only be lit **between the 1st and 7th of the months October - May.**

Bonfires are not permitted at any other time.

3. Method of Burning

Bonfires must be contained **within a small, purpose-made incinerator.**

4. Materials Permitted for Burning

Tenants may only burn dry, untreated green waste generated from their own plot.

The following materials must **not** be burned:

- Household waste of any kind.
- Plastics, rubber, treated or painted wood.
- Packaging, synthetic materials or any non-green waste.

5. Consideration for Neighbours

Tenants must always ensure that bonfires do not cause inconvenience or nuisance.

A bonfire **must not** be lit during still, damp or foggy conditions, when smoke is more likely to linger or when the prevailing wind means smoke may drift towards residential properties, roads or railway lines

Tenants are encouraged to consider speaking with neighbouring plot holders before lighting a fire.

6. Location and Safety Requirements

- Position the incinerator at a safe distance from sheds, fences, vegetation and other combustible materials.
- Keep a hose or buckets of water nearby in case of emergencies.
- Never use flammable liquids such as petrol, paraffin or methylated spirits to start or sustain a fire.
- Fires must **never** be left unattended.
- The fire must be fully extinguished using water or soil before leaving the plot.

7. Enforcement

Failure to follow these rules may result in:

- formal action under the tenancy agreement, including possible termination of the tenancy;
- enforcement by external bodies, including the **Environment Agency**, which may issue fines of up to **£5,000** for unlawful burning.

8. Alternatives to Bonfires

The Council strongly encourages the use of sustainable alternatives to burning:

Composting

Most green waste can be composted on-site. This provides an effective soil improver and reduces environmental impact. Guidance on home composting is available from Suffolk Recycling.

Recycling Centre

Domestic and garden waste can be taken free of charge to:
Felixstowe Recycling Centre, Carr Road, Felixstowe, IP11 3UT.

Garden Waste Collection

Tenants subscribed to East Suffolk Council's garden waste scheme may place suitable garden waste in their green bin for kerbside collection.

For any queries relating to this policy, tenants should contact Felixstowe Town Council or the Felixstowe Allotment Association.

Policy Approved: Assets & Services Committee
Review Body: Assets & Services Committee 19 November 2025
Review Period: 12 months, or sooner if required
Next Review: Assets & Services (November 2026)