

Dornoch Community Garden

AIMS

- 1 To develop thriving, attractive and multifunctional garden plots for the benefit of plot holders, visitors, the local community and wildlife.
- 2 To adhere to and promote, where possible and practicable, sustainable practices including: organic growing principles, the use of heritage varieties, reduced food miles and smaller carbon footprints.
- 3 To support the transfer of gardening skills to the wider community and enhance community understanding of the links between gardening activity, food quality and health.
- 4 To ensure the gardens and any group activities are accessible and inclusive of all members of the local community insofar as is reasonably practicable.

RULES

Plot Assignment and Fees

- 1 Plots are assigned on a first come first served basis, at the committee's discretion.
- 2 Garden plots will be assigned to one person/family only and are not transferable. Others may garden at the site, but the responsibility for payment of fees, clean up and other duties at the site will be the responsibility of the individual(s) whose name (s) is/are assigned to the plot
- 3 Fees will be set annually for a calendar year (January to December) at an Annual General Meeting of members.
- 4 If the plot is a new one on virgin turf or one that has been abandoned in poor condition, the first year's rent will be waived at the Committee's discretion.
- 5 One person or family can only take on one plot only but may change plots after consultation with the Chair.
- 6 On revision of the rules, or every five years, whichever is the sooner, plot-holders will be required to signed an updated copy of the Tenancy Agreement.

Plot Management

- 1 Individual plots should be maintained to a good standard, tidy with surrounding grass paths mown.
- 2 Plots must not be expanded beyond the given measurement, or onto paths or other plots. All plants should be kept within the limits of the allotted space and not permitted to grow higher than seven feet.
- 3 A plot will be considered as neglected, and therefore not maintained to a good standard if the plot holder has not been active for 3 months
- 4 Gates and sheds should be closed (and locked where applicable) after use.
- 5 Individual compost bins are allowed on assigned plots
- 6 The plot and surrounding paths must be kept clean and neat. All rubbish should be removed from site and disposed of appropriately.
- 7 If the plot is not longer required, for any reason, notify the committee at the earliest opportunity. Plots cannot be re-assigned to another plot-holder.
- 8 Vacated plots should be completely cleared of equipment, tools etc and the removal of more permanent structures such as sheds and polytunnels. If the latter are not required, refer to the committee for negotiation regarding re-use/sale

Gardening Practices

- 1 Organic growing practices are encouraged. However if any type of pesticide is used, all other plot holders should be informed and a barrier erected when spraying to protect other areas and users from drift.
- 2 Plots must be kept free of weeds, pests and diseases. All infected and diseased plants should be removed from plots and disposed of by burning.
- 3 Work parties will be organised by the Committee as and when the need arises to maintain the Community Garden. Plot holders are expected to take part in the work days or if unavailable, to volunteer for a commensurate maintenance task.
- 4 No illegal, dangerous or highly invasive plants may be cultivated on the plots.
- 5 Decomposed material from the leaf-litter and horse manure bins is available to all plot-holders on a first come first serve basis with consideration to be given to all plot holders requirements.
- 6 Trespass on other plots is un-acceptable. The taking of plants or produce, or using other people's tools without permission is not allowed.
- 7 Trade from the plots must not be undertaken.

Safe Use and Maintenance of Grass Cutting Equipment

- 1 In the communal shed there is currently a strimmer and a topper grass cutting machine for communal use. Other equipment may become available.
Only use the machinery when you have received instruction.
- 2 Use the equipment safely in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions, using the appropriate safety equipment, ie goggles, masks, ear defenders, etc as appropriate and in accordance with the Risk Assessment.
- 3 Always check the equipment, selecting and adjusting the settings appropriately
- 4 After use please clean and carry out basic maintenance including refilling the fuel containers and purchasing more fuel if required.
- 5 If the equipment is not working properly, stop using it immediately and inform a committee member. Do not attempt to repair it.
- 6 Do not use the equipment if it has a tag on it as this denotes professional maintenance required.

Mains Water (available April to October)

- 1 Hoses should be used with consideration to other plot holders and should not cross other plots
- 2 Taps must be turned off after use.

General

- 1 Plot holders should behave considerately in a spirit of co-operation and treat the gardens, other plot holders, neighbours and visitors with respect.
- 2 Plot-holders are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting and any interim meeting such as may be called. Communication between plot-holders is key for smooth running, transfer and formulation of ideas and projects.
- 3 Any sound equipment must be used with headphones so as not to disturb the peace of other plot holders and neighbours.
- 4 Vehicles should be parked with consideration for other plot users and neighbours

- 5 Family members are welcome but young children must be supervised so they don't disturb other plots
- 6 If vandalism or theft occurs, notify the garden committee immediately. Help to discourage losses by questioning unfamiliar faces.
- 7 No buildings or temporary structures may be erected without permission from the Chairman.
- 8 Harvesting of fruit from the orchard will be by consensus of all members and organised by the committee.
- 9 Dogs should be kept under strict control and not allowed to wander around unsupervised. Dog mess must be cleared up immediately.
- 10 Make visitors to the Glebe Field feel welcome.

Liability

- 1 Neither the garden committee nor the owners of the land are responsible for the actions of plot holders or their guests and will not be held liable for any damage, loss or injury.