

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Full Council

16 October 2025

Decision Report

Results of the Consultation Exercise carried out regarding Allotment fires during the trial period of April to September 2025.

Recommendation

Council consider the results of Consultation Exercise and resolve whether to:

- **Revert back to the policy of only allowing fires within the months of October to March**
- **Allowing fires all year round with/without restrictions**
- **Continue with another trial period during April to September 2026**

Ward

All

Risk Management

The policy of allowing allotment fires was changed, at the request of allotment holders, for the period April to September 2025, in order to allow allotment fires throughout these months. It was further agreed that this was for a trial period only.

Throughout this Officers have monitored complaints and have carried out a consultation with both residents and allotment holders.

Objectives

To review the impact of allotment fires throughout the trial period via the recent consultation and monitoring records maintained by officers.

Report

At a meeting of the Environment Committee in February 2025, it was agreed to extend the period when fires on allotments could take place.

The recommendation of the Committee was to allow fires 365 days per year, and this was to be reviewed after a trial period ending September 2025.

The Consultation document/questionnaire, see Appendix A, was issued to 450 households overlooking/backing onto the allotment sites in the town as well as notices on allotment gates and discussions with the 2 associations in the Town. The consultation with, BTC managed, plot holders, 148, was included within their rent letter, Appendix B.

This exercise has seen some 59 responses. The summary of results are shown in the table below.

Comment:	Responses from residents:	Responses from allotment holders:	Responses from Committee associations:
Support all-year fires	3	4	1 (representing 197 plot holders)
Support Partial/conditional fires (e.g. except weekends and bank holidays)	5	0	0
Oppose all-year fires (revert back to Oct-March permission)	40	0	1 (representing 119 plot holders)
No fires at all	3	0	0
No strong preference	2	0	0
Totals:	53	4	2

Officers have also dealt with 15 complaints from residents/NCC and these have been dealt with in discussion with allotment tenants with regard to the appropriateness of starting a fire in the given circumstances

Malcolm Wilkinson

Town Clerk

6 October 2025



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

24 September 2025

REF: 1

Dear Resident

ALLOTMENT FIRE CONSULTATION

In March 2025, the Environment Committee agreed to review the allotment fire policy.

Previously, allotment tenants were permitted to have fires on all Blyth sites between **1 October and 31 March** only. Fires were restricted to burning wood and general allotment waste.

Under the **current trial policy**, fires are permitted all year round (365 days a year), in line with neighbouring councils.

The Committee agreed to run this trial from **1 April to 30 September 2025** to help assess the impact on surrounding residents and to consider any feedback or complaints received.

As a resident living close to allotments, your views are important in helping us shape the final policy. We would be grateful if you could let us know your thoughts on the following options:

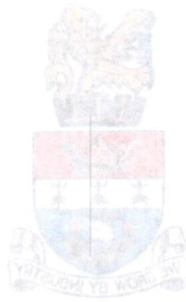
1. Should fires continue to be allowed all year round in line with the current trial policy?
2. Should fires be allowed all year round, but not on Saturdays, Sundays, or Bank Holidays?
3. Should we revert to the previous policy, only allowing fires between 1 October and 31 March?
4. Would you support extending the current trial period for a further 12 months?

Please send your feedback (**quoting the reference number**) by **Friday 3 October 2025** by:

Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 2AS

Telephone: 01670 361668

Email: info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk Website: www.blythtowncouncil.gov.uk



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

- Emailing **info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk**
- Or calling us on **01670 361 668**

Thank you for taking the time to share your views. Your feedback will help us make a balanced decision that considers both allotment tenants and neighbouring residents.

Yours faithfully

Error! No bookmark name given.

Malcolm Wilkinson
Town Clerk

Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 2AS
Telephone: 01670 361668
Email: info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk Website: www.blythtowncouncil.gov.uk



IN COLLABORATION WITH S.E.C. N.A.C. O.V.W. COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 2AS
Telephone: 01670 361668
Email: info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk Website: www.blythtowncouncil.gov.uk



Example letter sent:

Appendix B

Blyth Town Council



Arms Everytne House
Quay Road
Blyth
Northumberland
NE24 2AS

01670 361668

info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.blythtowncouncil.gov.uk

5 September 2025

Plot Ref : [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND RENT INVOICE FOR 2025/2026

In accordance with the decision made at Full Council on 24 February 2022, please be advised that annual rent increases will be applied in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) at the time of setting the budget.

This notification is issued in accordance with the 1908/1955 Allotments Act, which requires tenants to be given 12 months' written notice of any change to the Annual Rent Fee. Future increases will continue to be applied on this basis.

This year's annual rent is based on a 2.3% increase.

General Information

1. So that we may keep our records up to date, please let us know if any of your contact details have changed and especially if you have an email address not previously provided. Please email us at info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk
2. When receiving deliveries, e.g. topsoil or manure, if the load is to be delivered in the car park or in the lanes, please ensure that the delivery is placed onto a tarpaulin or groundsheet.
3. If you have any issues regarding your allotment or if you wish to report damage or leaking taps please contact David Clough, General Services Officer or Jason Russell, General Services Assistant on the office telephone number or on their mobile numbers during office hours, or leave a voicemail:
David Clough - [REDACTED]
Jason Russell - [REDACTED]
4. We are offering the opportunity for anyone with a full-size allotment plot who may find it difficult to manage or does not need the full plot, to split their plot into two smaller plots. If you are interested, please contact David or Jason using the numbers provided earlier.

5. Following tenant requests, we are considering a policy to allow wildlife ponds under strict guidelines. Currently, some tenants keep ducks and geese, using troughs for bathing and feeding, which must be sited in controlled areas. Many pigeon fanciers also provide occasional bird baths in vessels ranging from 1000mm x 500mm and 100-300mm deep. These activities are separate from the proposed wildlife pond policy. If this policy is adopted allotment holders will be notified.
6. In March 2025, the Environment Committee agreed to trial a change to the allotment fire policy which would allow fires 365 days per year (instead of the restriction of burning between 1 October to 31 March). This trial is nearing an end, and we welcome your feedback, the consultation questions are below.

We thank you for choosing an allotment with Blyth Town Council and hope you enjoy your time spent there.

Yours faithfully

M Wilkinson

Malcolm Wilkinson
Town Clerk

ALLOTMENT FIRE CONSULTATION

In March 2025, the Environment Committee agreed to review the allotment fire policy.

The previous policy permitted allotment tenants across all Blyth sites to have fires from 1st October to 31st March. Fires were restricted to burning wood and general allotment waste. The current trial policy permits fires all year round (365 days a year), in line with neighbouring councils.

The Committee also agreed to a trial period from 1st April to 30th September 2025 in order to monitor feedback and complaints from residents. We are now seeking your views as an allotment tenant to help shape the final policy.

Please provide your feedback on the following options:

1. Should fires continue to be allowed all year round in line with the current trial policy?
2. Should fires be allowed all year round, but not on Saturdays, Sundays, or Bank Holidays?
3. Should we revert to the previous policy, only allowing fires between 1st October and 31st March?
4. Would you support extending the current trial period for a further 12 months?

Please can you respond by Friday 3 October 2025 by emailing info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk, posting your response or calling the office on 01670 361 668