

# Weedon Bec Parish Council Allotments – Church Street

## Risk Assessment

### Location:

Church Street allotments site, Weedon Bec: Title Registration No: NN302952

The 1.76 acre site is situated behind the Parish Church and between the railway viaduct and Grand Union Canal embankment. The area also holds the Anglian Water Pumping Station but this is not part of the Parish Council's ownership.

### The Site

The allotment site has palisade fencing enclosing it, with one gated pedestrian and vehicle access point. The gate is secured by a combination padlock.

The enclosed site is divided into 29 allotment plots. Water is provided by tap.

Each allotment holder has a tenancy agreement with the Parish Council. Allotment holders are required to observe the Allotment Rules that are designed to ensure the safe operation of the site. A copy of the Agreement is on the notice board just inside the allotment site.

### Facilities

No facilities provided on the site.

Allotment holders may apply to erect a shed or poly-tunnel on their plot for which they are responsible for.

The Council does not provide any tools to allotment holders.

### Users

Allotment holders must be over the age of 18 years.

### Legislative considerations:

Occupiers Liability Acts 1984 & 1957 – duty of care to all lawful visitors and trespassers.

Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

**Risk assessment for individuals:**

Hazard	Who	Level of risk	Action
Trips and falls typically giving rise to minor cuts and abrasions, twisted ankles etc.	Allotment users, contractors	Medium	Care to be taken by individuals; should be alert to local surface conditions, vegetation, etc
Blisters, minor cuts, abrasions	Allotment users, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Use of tools - risk of injury to self and others	Allotment users, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety. Contractors to undertake their own risk assessment.
Animal manure and composting – risk of infection	Allotment users, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Sharps, needles, razor blades – risk of injury	Allotment users, contractors	Low in terms of finding such items in the site.	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Bonfires	Allotment users, contractors	Low - Medium	Only permitted on site between 1 <sup>st</sup> November and 30 <sup>th</sup> April. Tenant who has bonfire must stay in attendance whilst it is lit and smoking and ensure it is out before leaving the site
Sunburn/hypothermia – risk to general health	Allotment users, contractors		Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Pesticides and fertilisers – risk to health	Allotment users, contractors	Medium	Parish Council does not provide chemicals. Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Bee & wasp stings – injury Bee hive on site	Allotment users, contractors	Low – Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Poultry – injury	Allotment users, contractors	Low	Tenants are responsible for the health and welfare of their chickens. Other individuals should take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Water butts – infection, risk of falling over onto a person	Allotment users, contractors	Medium	Allotment holders provide their own water butts. Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety
Vermin – rats	Allotment users, contractors	Medium	Each individual has to take personal responsibility for his/her safety

**Risk assessment for the Council:**

Hazard	Level of risk	Action
Damage to, wear of, infrastructure ie fencing, gates, water catchment area/taps	Increased costs for the council Low-medium	Budget accordingly Set fee levels appropriately Monitor condition of infrastructure
Personal injury resulting in a claim against public liability insurance	Medium	Monitor site and mitigate hazards Erect notice is there is an immediate danger
Volunteers acting at the request of the council being injured during that activity	Medium	Risk assessment undertaken to ensure the volunteer has the requisite skill set and the tools used are fit for purpose.
Allotment plots not being used in accordance with the Rules either by non-cultivation or for unauthorised purposes.	Medium	Regular site inspections to ensure that terms of tenancy are being complied with. Non-cultivation processes to be implemented.
Allotments uncultivated due to insufficient tenants. Allotment rents would not cover site costs.	Low	Waiting list maintained. Advertising for new tenants