

## **PLOT INSPECTIONS AND CRITERIA**

Many people find that the amount of work required to maintain and cultivate a plot of land is more than they anticipated. The initial enthusiasm and optimism gives way to reality of limitations, mainly of time. A plot requires a great deal of input.

To ensure that all plots are maintained and cultivated regular plot inspections will be conducted.

If any Member has difficulty in sustaining their plot, they should consult with a member of the Committee to find a solution.

### Criteria for plot inspections

Who carries out the inspections:

Two people will perform the inspections. This can be either, two Committee members or one Committee member and a non-Committee Member of the Association or any other arrangement to be agreed at the AGM.

When will they be conducted:

Provisionally, the first week of each quarter: March, June, Sep, Dec.  
Exact dates to be decided by the Association's Secretary.

How are they recorded:

Each inspector independently walks the plot, and makes their individual assessment of each plot.

Scores for each plot are added together and then divided by two to give an average score.

The inspection sheet has five sections:

1. **OVERALL APPEARANCE:** is the plot being attended; free of perennial and pernicious weeds; free of rubbish and kept tidy; is it cultivated, partially cultivated or not cultivated.

2. STRUCTURES: are any structures, hut, greenhouse, cold frame etc. in a good state of repair.
3. BOUNDARIES, PATHS AND BEDS: are these clear and accessible and well maintained; free of weeds and obstruction; no weeds, bushes or other items encroaching on neighbouring plots or common paths.
4. GROWING AREA: evidence of cultivation, growing, cropping, digging, sowing of green manure, mulching, covering with weed suppressant membrane, is this temporary or permanent; weed free to percentage of weeds in the plot.
5. COMMENTS: evidence of improvement or deterioration; visible effort and achievements; special feature installed or particular areas improved, cleared or cultivated.

#### Scoring:

There are currently five sections. Each section can be accorded a marking of between 1 and 5.

A marking of 1 or 2 is a fail; a marking of 3 is a pass; a marking of 4 is good and a marking of 5 is very good.

A total score of 25 can be achieved. An overall score of 13 or above will be deemed a pass of the inspection.

Note will be made of areas of the plot or points where there is a need for improvement.

Note will be made of areas of the plot or points of extra effort; special feature or major improvement.

Account is taken of individual circumstances, within reason, e.g. full time job, working away, working alone or health issues, if the Committee have previously been made aware of an individual's status.

On request, ploholders are allowed to see their individual inspection score.

## Procedure as a result of failing a plot inspection

These are outlined in the Association's Rules, items 6 a) to c).

If a plot fails a quarterly plot inspection, then a further plot inspection will be undertaken 25 days after the date of the notification email.

It is only fair that if you cannot maintain and cultivate your plot, for any reason, that the Association gives the opportunity, to have a plot, to someone on our waiting list.

The Committee retains the right to terminate the tenancy of any plot-holder, who after due procedure has not maintained their plot according to agreed standards. A plot-holder has a right to appeal directly to the National Environment Technician at Land and Environment Services. The committee hopes to support plot-holders in difficult times, but ultimately must hold the general good of the site and other plot-holders paramount.

If, as a result of the criteria of the plot inspection, you are requested to resign, or you choose to resign, you can request to be placed on our waiting list for future consideration.