



Issue No 2 Produced by Wotton-under-Edge Town Council

New Road Water Supply, Main Entrance and Path

The new water supply at New Road Allotments has now been installed and has recently been connected to the existing system on the site at the cost of £3,534. Improvements to the main entrance and path along with the new gates have been completed at the cost of £3,365. The feedback we have received from tenants has been very positive.



Knapp Road Clearance of Plots and Main Entrance

Plots 21B and 22A were cleared and covered with weed proof membrane. The area in front of the main gate and the hedge around plot 23A was also cleared. A skip was used to remove the rubbish, fly tipping in front of the main gate along with rubbish and the old rotivator from New Road. Using Town Council resources has saved £700 but there was a cost for the skip of £237.50.

Deposits for New Tenants

The Council intends to strim and cover all vacant plots going forward, so they will be in a more acceptable state for new tenants. A holding deposit of £50 is now required from new tenants, and photos of the plot will be taken and added to the agreement for signature. When a tenant vacates the plot, photos will be taken again for comparison. If any improvements need to be made, or rubbish disposed of, then the cost will be taken from the deposit and the remainder returned if any.

Bonfires

Garden bonfires have been a traditional way of disposing of garden rubbish, but they often cause a nuisance to other tenants on the allotments. It has been reported that some tenants have been having bonfires that blow smoke across the allotment site and to the local residential area. The smell of burning plastic has also been reported. There are no specific laws that prohibit garden bonfires, nor any which restricts them to certain hours of the day. However, a garden bonfire can cause a statutory nuisance, and here are some guidelines that will help to ensure that you don't cause a nuisance to fellow tenants or local residents:

- Only burn dry material and never burn household rubbish or plastics.
- Avoid lighting bonfires in damp still weather conditions.
- Avoid burning, when people are enjoying their plots or gardens at weekends and bank holidays.
- Never leave a bonfire unattended or to smoulder.

For more information please visit the Stroud District Council website

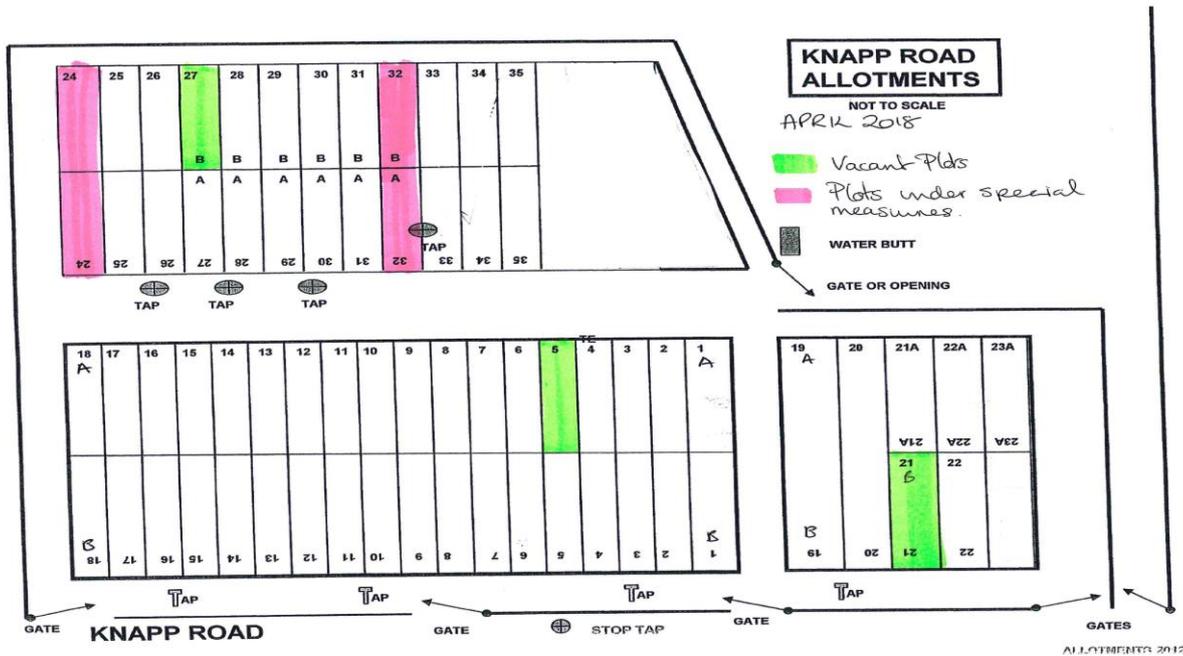
www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/pollution-and-nuisance/bonfires-and-smoke-smoke-control

There is an alternative to having a bonfire. Why not have a compost bin on your plot? Please see in the Gardening Tips section.

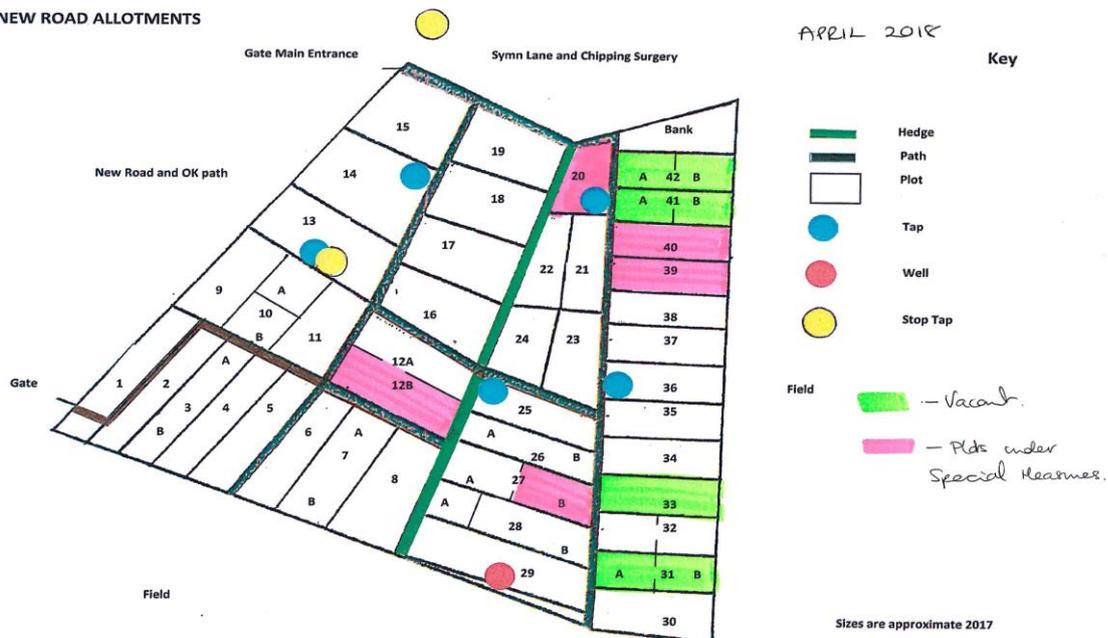
Best Kept Allotment Competition 2018 will be judged in mid-June. This year tenants will automatically be entered unless instructed otherwise. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Best Newcomer for each site.

Vacant Plots and Special Measures

Please find below plans of both sites showing vacant plots and those under special measures. These are correct at the time of publication and are always subject to change. Special measures could include tenants that have mitigating circumstances reducing the time they are able to spend on their plot for a specific period. In this instance they are given more time to make improvements. The first plot inspection took place in April.



NEW ROAD ALLOTMENTS



Gardening Tips

Composting

To reduce the need for a bonfire. Why not have a compost bin on your plot and make your own compost that will enrich the soil? To make good compost you need equal amounts of dry brown and green material. Build up layers of each in the bin and to help with drainage and air circulation place some woody plant stems or small twigs in the bottom. Keep adding material as the contents sinks down in the bin. It takes about a year to create good compost so you may want to have two bins to alternate annually to ensure the compost is well rotted.



Jobs for May

It's time to plant courgettes, artichokes, brussel sprouts, celery, and pumpkins. It's time for sweetcorn too but be warned the local badgers have a taste for them.

It is warm enough now to sow a variety of vegetables outside such as beetroot and runner beans.

Cover emerging potatoe shoots to help prevent light reaching the tubers as they will turn green giving high levels of glycoalkaloids toxins. If you have any extra space plant some quick growing crops such as salads. Be in control of the weeds hoe as regularly as you can.

Jobs for June

Prune soft fruit. Gooseberries - cut back current seasons growth (about 5 leaves).

Red currants - cut current seasons growing tips on main stem to one bud.

A larger variety of veg can be sown outdoors. Please find overleaf a Vegetable Planner which you may find useful.



Jobs for July

Reap what you have sown! Harvest regularly to enjoy the best tasting fruit and vegetables.

Plot Inspections

Plot inspections have taken place and we can see that a lot of you have been really busy. However, we have seen some tyres used to anchor down weed proof membrane and as planters. Could you please remove any tyres from your plot as they are not permitted and they may attract fly tipping. Please make sure you have a number post/sign on your plot as some did not. With the weeds growing well please keep the paths and edges of your plot cut.

Next Allotments Tenants Meeting 11th June in the Coombe Suite at the Civic Centre at 7.00pm

Allotment Contacts

Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Diana Hyam tel 01453 521659 email administrator@wotton-under-edge.com

Knapp Road Representatives;

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New Road Representatives;

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ALLOTMENTS VEGETABLE PLANNER

Crop	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Artichoke Globe		■	■	■	■	■						
Broad Bean				■	■							
French Bean					■							
Runner Bean												
Beetroot												
Broccoli												
Brussels Sprouts												
Cabbage												
Carrot												
Cauliflower												
Cucumber												
Leek												
Lettuce												
Onion												
Parsnip												
Pea												
Potato												
Sweetcorn												
Tomato												

- Sowing indoors, under cover
- Sowing outdoors
- Planting tubers, sets or off sets
- Planting out of seedlings
- Harvesting