

# Flitwick Town Council **ALLOTMENT STRATEGY**



**2022 - 2027**

## Introduction

Flitwick Town Council own and manage two sites at Station Road and Steppingley Road containing approximately 180 plots, as part of their statutory duty “to provide a sufficient number of allotments if they are of the opinion that there is a demand for them”. Allotments are a valued and important asset to Flitwick Town Council providing a wide range of benefits to both communities and the environment. Allotment sites are also identified as existing Green Infrastructure by Central Bedfordshire Council.

The day to day management and promotion of the allotment service falls to the Community Services Committee, whilst maintenance, repairs and works are carried out by the Town Council’s Grounds Team.

The Aim of the Allotment Strategy is to **maintain, develop and promote a flourishing allotment provision for the benefit and enjoyment of Flitwick residents**. To achieve this, it provides a framework for the development and management of allotments by Flitwick Town Council for next five years by focussing on six main target areas:

1. Ensuring sufficient allotments
2. Provide safe, secure and welcoming allotment sites
3. Encourage well maintained allotments
4. Improve and encourage biodiversity and sustainability
5. Actively promote the allotments to Flitwick residents
6. Continue to improve the management of the allotment service

## Allotment 5 Year Plan Timetable

Target areas	Actions	Timescale	Responsible	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>1. Ensuring sufficient allotments</b>	Review waiting lists	Ongoing	<i>Allotment Manager</i>	/				
	Split plots where appropriate to create smaller more manageable plots for new tenants	Ongoing	<i>PRT &amp; Allotment Manager</i>	/	/	/	/	/
<b>2. Provide safe, secure and welcoming allotment sites</b>	Ensure good and safe access to all sites	Ongoing	<i>PRT</i>	/	/	/	/	/
	Provide a good allotment guide for all tenants to support the terms of the tenancy agreement and to clarify tenant's responsibilities	Ongoing	<i>Allotment Manager &amp; AWG</i>	/	/	/	/	/
	Investigate the provision of compost toilets	2023/24	<i>AWG</i>	/				
	Provide sites that are free from hazards to health	Ongoing	<i>PRT &amp; Allotment Manager</i>	/	/	/	/	/
	Ensure all livestock is well cared for	Ongoing	<i>AWG</i>	/	/	/	/	/
	Work with the local Police/Safer Central Team to improve site security	Ongoing	<i>Allotment Manager</i>	/	/	/	/	/
	Improve boundary fencing at the Steppingley Road site	2023	<i>Allotment Manager</i>	/				
	Increase the number of water troughs at Station Road	2023/24	<i>ALC, Allotment Manager, PRT</i>	/	/			
<b>3. Encourage well maintained allotments</b>	Regular analysis of the tenancy agreement to reinforce tenants responsibilities	Ongoing	<i>ALC</i>	/	/	/	/	/
	Work with the Public Realm Team to control weeds on vacant plots before they go to seed, where possible	Ongoing	<i>PRT</i>	/	/	/	/	/
	Work with site reps and tenants to ensure all sites are well maintained	April - September	<i>AWG</i>	/	/	/	/	/

<b>4. Improve and encourage biodiversity and sustainability</b>	Encourage tenants to compost on their own plot or remove vegetation from site	Ongoing	AWG & Allotment Manager	/	/	/	/	/
	Identify, recognise and protect any areas rich in wildlife value, such as hedges and marginal areas	Ongoing	PRT	/	/	/	/	/
	Introduce an annual award to promote aspects of biodiversity	Ongoing	AWG	/	/	/	/	/
<b>6. Actively promote the allotment service to Flitwick residents</b>	Provide good quality information about the service to users and non-users	Ongoing	Allotment Manager	/	/	/	/	/
	Look to promote the allotments through social media and attendance at Council run events i.e. Family Fun Day and Annual Town Meeting	Ongoing	Allotment Manager & AWG	/	/	/	/	/
<b>7. Continue to improve the management of the allotment service</b>	Provide efficient allotment administration	Ongoing	Allotment Manager	/	/	/	/	/
	Maximise the benefits of available funding for all sites	Ongoing	Allotment Manager	/	/	/	/	/