



New Tenant Checklist

Cheltenham Borough Council allotment sites are thriving, with many happy and successful vegetable growers. You are now in a position to join them and are possibly feeling quite excited to have reached the top of the waiting list!

However, many plots are being taken on and then handed back because the reality of having an allotment can be very different from how it is imagined or how it can be portrayed on the television. Not only can this be disappointing, people find they have spent money renting a plot (and on tools and seeds) only to realise that they do not have the time or resources an allotment requires. This checklist is to help you decide.

Are you aware of the time it takes to manage an allotment plot?



If you work, do you have many weekday evenings and weekends free? Your plot will probably need several visits per week. Plots get overgrown very quickly and require constant attention. Many plots are being taken on and then handed back because the time needed to manage them has been seriously underestimated. Do ask the warden or other tenants about how often they visit their plots and how many hours they spend at the site.

Are you aware of your obligations as an allotment tenant?

As well as growing vegetables, you need to keep the plot free from weeds to prevent spread to neighbouring plots and to maintain the paths. This requires additional time you may not have factored in.

Do you have the resources to clear and manage a plot?

Initial clearing of a plot requires a lot of hard work. Do you have the capacity yourself or with the help of friends or family, to take this on?

Have you got access to tools and equipment?

If the site has grass paths between plots, do you have access to tools to keep them cut and cleared? Have you thought about what equipment will be needed to maintain an allotment plot year-round?

Have you grown vegetables before?

Have you filled your garden? Used up all the pots and grow-bags? Covered the patio? Emptied the flower bed? You might like to start small and build some experience before tackling an allotment.

Do you need an allotment plot?

This may seem like a silly question but many new tenants take on a plot only to realise that what they can or want to achieve can be done at home. Potatoes can be grown in sacks and even runner beans can be grown in pots, with the convenience of it all being on the doorstep.

Hopefully, you can now decide if you are well placed to take a plot on. You also have the option to stay on the waiting list for a plot in the future if you decide that now is not the best time. Please contact the warden with your decision:

_____ on tel: _____