**Sandwell MBC Allotment FAQ.’s**

**How do I apply for an allotment?**

Please email us Allotment\_Enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk and we will send you an application form. If we do not have any current vacancies, we will add you to our waiting list at your chosen site.

We also have a number of allotment associations within the borough, these are not managed directly by the council. They are managed by our volunteers; we can put you in touch with the committee’s that manage the sites in your area.

**How much does an allotment plot cost in Sandwell?**

The current price for an allotment in Apr 2025/ Apr 2026 for a resident in Sandwell is £52 per annum. The price for a Non- Resident of Sandwell is £104 per annum

**I already have an allotment in Sandwell, how do I report a problem?**

Please email allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk

**I already have an allotment in Sandwell, I have a problem with my invoice or how do I pay my invoice?**

You can pay your invoice at Sandwell Council House, any local neighbourhood office or over the phone on 0121 737 5131. If you have a problem with your invoice please email us with your query allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk

**I already have an allotment in Sandwell, I need to notify you of a change of address.**

Please email allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk

**Can I have more than one allotment plot?**

You can apply for additional plots on the site that you are already on, providing that there is no waiting list; however, you cannot have multiple plots on more than one allotment site.

**Are bonfires allowed on allotments?**

Bonfires are **not permitted** onsite; green waste can be composted on your allotment plot any other waste must be disposed of in the appropriate way at your local waste facility.

**Can I keep livestock on my allotment?**

The allotment act allows the keeping of chickens (but **no** **cockerels**) and rabbits. Chickens should be kept in small numbers (large numbers of chickens must be reported to DEFRA) the following link offers some useful guidance on animal welfare <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare>

**Are hosepipes allowed on allotments?**

You are **not permitted** to use a hosepipe to water your allotment plot, you are only permitted to use a hosepipe to fill your water butt if it has not replenished naturally. If you haven’t got a water butt on your allotment you may want to consider getting one.

**Selling excess produce.**

You are **not permitted** to sell any produce at all from your plot, even if it is classed as ‘excess’ any tenant found to be doing this could face losing your tenancy. You are however permitted to donate any surplus food to your local foodbank or community soup kitchen.

**Can I have a shed/ greenhouse or polytunnel?**

Yes, you are permitted to have a small shed or greenhouse, we would recommend no larger than 8ft x 10ft. Please contact us separately regarding polytunnels by emailing allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk

**I have lost my key; can I have a replacement?**

If you have lost your keys and require a replacement key, please email us to arrange a new one. (There is a charge for replacement keys) allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk

**Can I compost my green waste on my allotment?**

You are allowed to compost green waste on your plot in a contained area, or within a communal area identified on site.

**Can I swap my allotment plot with another?**

You may swap your plot if a plot on your site becomes vacant, you will need to contact us at allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk

**How do I notify you if I want to give up my allotment plot?**

You will need to contact us in writing at allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk to let us know that you no longer want to keep your allotment; you will also need to return your key to us. If you do not let us know that you have given up a plot you may be still be invoiced.

**What are the council’s rules on allotments?**

You will receive a copy of our rules and regulations for your allotment, once you have been allocated a plot with you tenancy agreement.

**Does the council collect rubbish from allotment sites?**

Unfortunately, the council cannot collect rubbish from each allotment site, we encourage the composting of green waste on allotment plots, any other rubbish should be disposed of at the appropriate facility.

**Can we have a skip?**

The council does not provide skips for allotment sites; you should not bring any rubbish to your allotment, and waste material associated with your plot should be disposed of in the appropriate way at your local waste facility.

**Japanese Knotweed**

If you find or suspect you have Japanese Knotweed on your plot or have seen it on your allotment site, please report it to us immediately, using the following email address allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk

**DO NOT CUT IT** or try to remove it yourself.

**What is an association site?**

Allotments in Sandwell are managed by Sandwell’s Green Spaces team, however a proportion of the sites across the borough are managed by Allotment Associations. This means that they are leased to Allotment Associations that select a committee from their plot holders. The site is then managed by the committee who look after the site day to day and manage their own rentals and administration. As an allotment association, you will be eligible to apply for funding for onsite improvements or projects.

**How can my allotment site become an association?**

You will need to make sure you have people onsite that are willing to stand as committee members, and that the majority of allotment tenants already onsite would be happy to move over to a self- management arrangement. if you would like further information, please contact us at allotment\_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk