# **BRUNDALL PARISH COUNCIL**

BRUNDALL ALLOTMENTS

INFO 102: WILL I HAVE TIME FOR AN ALLOTMENT?

**General**

You need to think carefully about how much time you will have available for looking after an allotment garden. Considering how much time you will be able to spend will also help determine what size plot might be best for you.

**How Much Time Will I Need To Spend?**

This will depend on what size plot you have, what state the plot is in when you take it over, what you grow, how you organise your plot etc. A sample estimate is that for a full-size plot, during November to February you would need to spend 2 to 6 hours per week, and during March to October (the main growing season) you might need to spend 6 to 10 hours per week. The time required for smaller plots would be proportionally less. It may take more time to get the plot under control, and then less time to keep it that way. In dry spells you will need to consider watering regularly to keep the plants going. If you go away on holiday, when you come back the weeds will have grown and you will need to be able to be down there to deal with them.

**What Am I Required To Do?**

You are expected to cultivate your plot and make use of it for growing fruit/vegetables/flowers. You are required to keep weeds under control. If weeds are not controlled, they will grow to release seeds onto nearby plots, upsetting your neighbours.

**What Will Happen If I Neglect My Plot?**

If you are not making use of your plot or you are causing problems for your neighbours with weed growth, you can be asked to leave. If necessary, the Parish Council will evict you. There are no refunds of plot rentals.

**Turnover**

A number of people take on a plot but then find they just do not spend enough time on it, particularly at the beginning. The plot then gets overgrown, becomes too much of a challenge to get it under control, and they give it up. There is a regular turnover as people find they do not have enough time and after finding it a struggle, give up their plot.

**Plot Sizes**

The site has full, half and quarter-size plots. Since the site opened, as people have left, a number of full-size plots have been split into halves, and half-size plots have been split into quarters. In August 2020 we had 20 Full-size, 55 Half-size, and 31 Quarter size plots. Some plotholders have found that their plot is too much to deal with, but want to stay, and so have “downsized” by releasing part of their plot. So the site is gradually providing smaller plots that more people can better deal with. Upsizing and downsizing is possible.

In some cases, plotholders have decided to start with a quarter-size plot, and see how they get on. Sometimes they have found that they can cope better than they probably expected, and look to taking on a larger plot. The quarter-size plots can be used as “starter plots” where you can see how you get on during the first season or two without making too large a commitment, and then decide whether that is enough or whether you could cope with more.

**Be Clear Thinking**

Having an allotment can be very rewarding and give a lot pleasure. There is a lot going for it, and many residents make a success of it. But you need to be realistic about your intentions. You will be committing to regular visits to your plot. How much spare time do you have at the moment? What would you plan to be doing less of or stopping altogether if you took on a plot? Are you expecting to have more time in the future (for example if you are approaching retirement), or less time in the future (for example if you are changing your job, or your family circumstances might change)? Think about how much time you are likely to be able to spend, and therefore what size plot might best suit you.