

FUNDING

CONTACTS

Community-Led Planning in Herefordshire

Funding, other than the precept, may be available from a variety of sources including:

- Landfill Community Funds (www.entrust.org.uk)
- Awards for All (www.awardsforall.org.uk)
- Princes Trust - for projects run by young people (www.princes-trust.org)
- Local fundraising
- B&Q waste donation (www.diy.com/diy/jsp/corporate/content/environment_ethics/ethics/community/waste_donation.jsp)

Fees - the law states that rent is what 'a tenant may reasonably be expected to pay'. An average fee for a standard plot is £25 year. Allotments are often run at a loss.

The ARI 'Site Visits Travel Bursary' is open to any group of people engaged in regenerating allotments that wishes to visit other allotment sites for the purpose of learning good practice. You may apply for up to £300 in total for the travel and associated expenses of up to six people.

The Delegated Grants Team at Herefordshire Council will be able to advise you further on funding streams and provide support with completing funding bids (01432 260753 or delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk).

Parish Councils will be able to reclaim the VAT on any purchase providing they place the order, receive the goods (including an invoice in their name) and pay using their own funds (including any grant monies).

Parish Council and Steering Group members wishing to find out about Community-Led Plan implementation should contact Herefordshire Association of Local Councils on 01432 353492 or 01432 355701 or email the Community Action Plan Implementation Officer (CAPI) on mel@halchereford.gov.uk

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Community-Led Planning Team:

- CLP Coordinating and Commissioning Officer (Herefordshire Partnership) Tel. 01432 383612
- Development Support Officer (Community First) Tel. 01432 262973
- Childrens and Young Peoples Engagement Support Officer (Herefordshire CVYS) Tel. 01432 277822

ALLOTMENT PROVISION



Implementation support

HEREFORDSHIRE
ASSOCIATION OF
LOCAL COUNCILS



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In Herefordshire allotments fall under the responsibility of Town and Parish Councils. In the last few years interest in local food growing has increased and many allotment sites have waiting lists.

The subject of allotments can be quite complicated and detailed, however a broad overview will be given here.

Further information and resources are detailed on the back page.

LAND

Land can be either leased or purchased for allotment gardens; this will be known as statutory allotment land and specific legislation applies (Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908).

As a starting point adverts requesting land could be placed in local Parish Magazines and the Hereford Times. Farmers may want to lease land as a farm diversification activity. Herefordshire Council has the option of compulsorily hiring or purchasing land for Town/Parish Councils, though few Councils have gone down this route.

Disposal of land acquired for allotments will need the permission of the Secretary of State. When giving this permission the Secretary of State will ensure: the land is not needed for allotments; provision has been made for current allotment plot holders; the waiting list has been taken into account and the Local Council has promoted and advertised the allotments.

LAY OUT

Allotments do not constitute development, so planning permission is not required. However, if you intend to have a parking area, storage or other facilities a planning application may be needed (Parish Councils can submit an application for a reduced price). It is best to chat through your plans with the local Planning Officer.

The standard size of an allotment garden is 250 square metres, though a mixture of full size and half size plots is useful. You may want to instruct a qualified person to design the layout of the site, as there are various things to consider including water supply, haulage ways, sheds, storage for grass cutting equipment, rubbish areas, toilets and car parking.

MANAGEMENT

It is wise to set up an Allotment Association as soon as possible, so they can be involved at an early stage. The Association is likely to manage much of the day to day activities of the site. A written agreement between the Parish Council and the Association should be formalised, this will detail the roles and responsibilities of both parties.

Tenancy agreements between the Council and the plot holder will need to be drawn up. There are plenty of models that can be adapted to meet the requirements of the particular site. Please see National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Limited (www.nsalg.org.uk) or Allotments Regeneration Initiative (www.farmgarden.org.uk/ari)

You may wish to think about what size of shed is permitted, whether animals are allowed (chickens and rabbits can be kept as a right), and whether fencing is allowed around individual plots.

Tenancy agreements usually include obligations to keep the plot clean, free from weeds and so on. Reference may also be made to policies such as conflict resolution and tenancy termination.

Water can potentially be the largest on-going expense of running an allotment. Dip tanks, taps with combination locks and mandatory water harvesting can be used to reduce the amount of water used on sites.

Security - 'Multilock' padlocks welded onto chains and aggressive planting such as hawthorn, pyracantha or roses around boundary fencing are both effective in stopping intruders.

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Future allotment provision could be included within future housing development. Allotment provision falls with Planning Policy guidance 17 'Planning for open Space, Sport & Recreation'. Please contact your Local Planning Officer to discuss this possibility.

Land and garden share schemes may be a temporary option while allotment land is being located. Further information can be viewed at www.landshare.net or Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (www.farmgarden.org.uk)