

HC/PMR

2nd November 2010

Mr. D. Harvey,
Dacorum Environmental Forum,
c/o Phil Pennington, Chairman of DEF,
The Boxmoor Trust,
London Road,
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.
HP1 2RE.

Dear Mr. Harvey,

ALLOTMENTS

I write in reply to your letter dated 8th October regarding allotments.

The Council is aware that there is a waiting list for extra sites, and is also aware that it has a statutory duty to provide a sufficient number of plots. This duty is covered under Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908. However, the Act also states that there is no time limit for provision once it has been established that there is a demand. As previously stated, due to the financial constraints the Borough has to deal with, it will not be possible to embark on supplying any new allotments. Once the situation improves, it is the Council's intention to increase the number of sites to meet the community's need.

The Council thank the Dacorum Environmental Forum for the constructive issues raised and the suggestions put forward. Some of the bad practice regarding a tenant passing on plots to friends must stop, and I agree that the land should only be used to supply food for his or her family.

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In answer to the Steering Group proposals:

1. As previously stated, the Council will increase the provision of allotments once the Borough's financial conditions allow.
2. The Council will review the annual rental price to allow the service to become self-financing. However, this must be carried out with great care to ensure that those in most need are catered for.
3. Officers will look into the current Allotment Statute to see if improvements can be made.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

Bert Chapman
Portfolio Holder
Environment and Sustainability