



Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society

URGENT Allotments in Scotland still under threat

Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) are concerned that the allotment movement in Scotland is facing a historic moment. We believe that the Guidance associated with the new allotments legislation in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 could lead to local authorities manufacturing a situation that would lead to the end of allotments as we know them.

However, if we all act together, we have a chance to make a big difference, protect our sites and support the creation of new ones.

We are asking all of you, as existing or potential allotment holders, to respond to the Government Consultation <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/08/5347>. **The deadline is 17 November.** It won't take long - just 10 minutes to put your concerns in two or three comments boxes - and your response will influence the final wording of the Guidance and how your local authority will work with you under the new legislation.

This link <http://www.sags.org.uk/docs/Responses/AllotmentGuidanceConsultation.pdf> gives the background to the various issues and suggestions for responses to the Consultation which SAGS believe will produce the result the allotment movement needs to survive and grow, as well as the link to the actual Consultation document itself.

In brief:

Questions 5 and 8 are of particular concern to existing plot-holders because they are about how your local authority :

- consults with plot-holders
- writes and imposes rules and regulations
- manages sites with delegated/devolved management.

All of these may change how your site is run and what you are allowed do on your plot.

Questions 1, 3, 6 and 7 are of concern to those who are waiting for a plot because they are about how your local authority :

- assesses and meets the demand for plots
- includes growing spaces in new developments
- establishes that a person has a right to a standard 250 sq.m. plot if they want one, or a smaller one if they feel a standard plot would be too big.
- identifies and secures land to set up and maintain allotment sites under a local food growing strategy.

All these may affect where and what you are offered as an allotment plot.

The history of allotments in Scotland over the last 100 years has shown that how local authorities interpret legislation determines the fate of allotments. Depending on how the new Act is implemented, it will either lead to the creation of new allotments or the closure of existing ones.

The more responses the Scottish Government receive from the allotment community, the more likely it is that our voice will be heard, so as well as completing the consultation yourself, please forward this email on to anyone else you know who either has an allotment or who would like to have one.

If you have any queries, or would like further information, please contact us at secretary@sags.org.uk.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best wishes

Ian Welsh

President,

Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society

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