# **Meopham and District Allotment Society**

# **Keeping chickens at Southdown Shaw**

**General**

In accordance with Allotment Law section 12 of the Allotments Act 1950, MDAA can permit up to **2-4** hens to be kept on an allotment plot, provided that the plot is mainly used for growing vegetables and fruit for the plot holder and their family’s personal use only. Cockerels and other livestock (except rabbits) and are **not** permitted at any time.

The committee have checked with MPC and there are no by-laws preventing any plot holder from keeping chickens. However, it is imperative that any chickens kept on the site must be looked after to ensure their health, safety and that they do not cause a nuisance (Tenancy Agreement 4. The Tenant shall not cause any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment garden)

You must **provide and agree** to the following:

* the correct welfare of the chickens themselves
* comfort and shelter including predator and vandal proof housing and runs
* readily accessible fresh water and a diet to maintain full heath and vigour all year round including fresh water in freezing conditions
* freedom of movement and the opportunity to exercise normal behavioural patterns
* light during the hours of daylight (in other words they cannot be locked in the hen house all day) and a means of inspecting the birds at any other time. The chickens should ideally be visited twice a day.
* the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lice, injury, parasitic infection and disease. From time to time there can be outbreaks of animal diseases that affect a particular area or the whole country. Some diseases can be quickly passed on by contact and through the air. If you keep hens, even one or two, we **require** you to register with the Great Britain Poultry Register. Then, if there is an outbreak of disease, you will be contacted to tell you about it and be given advice on how to deal with it quickly. Further information about the registering poultry can be obtained from the following website: [www.gov.uk/guidance/poultryregistration](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/poultryregistration)
* you must have emergency arrangements in the event of fire, flood or other emergencies in place and give us contact details so that you can be advised of any reported problems at any time in the day.
* dead chickens must be disposed of **away** from the site
* when your tenancy with us ends (and however it ends) you must remove any animal housing that you have used on your plot while you have been a tenant. This is to reduce the risk of disease being passed on. If buildings/runs are not removed by the tenant, we reserve the right to have them removed and to recharge you for the costs of doing so.
* although the Allotment Act 1950 allows plot holders to keep hens and rabbits, it also says that they must not be kept in a way that makes them “prejudicial (harmful) to health or a nuisance”. This means anything you do – or don’t do – that makes it likely that your animals will spread disease to other animals or people or where they cause a problem of smell, noise or damage etc. If we feel there is a problem with the way you keep your chickens, we can come onto your plot at any time to investigate. If you do not put things right after we have asked you to, then we will write to you and ask you to remove your chickens from the allotment site.
* any chickens, housing etc. are not included in our insurance cover
* the chickens’ welfare, safety and housing etc. are completely the responsibility of the plot holder

Signing this information sheet denotes your understanding and acceptance of these rules and your agreement to provide the above points.

This list/document is subject to changes as issues become apparent and all changes must be adhered to. The committee reserve the right to change the policy and will always advise the plot holder.

AS WITNESS the hands of the party hereto:

Tenant signature

Tenant name

For and on behalf of Meopham and District Allotment Association

Association Officer signature

Association Officer name

Change of address, email address and all other correspondence should be communicated by email to info@meopham-allotments.co.uk

Our Data Protection and Privacy Policies can be found on our website - <https://www.meopham-allotments.co.uk/>

We also include some help sheets regarding keeping chickens on our “Keeping chickens” web page

Suggested websites for help with looking after chickens

<https://www.bhwt.org.uk/>

<https://www.nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/hens-on-allotments/>

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/farmanimals/chickens>

<https://www.chickens.allotment-garden.org/>