North Mymms Parish Council

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22 April 2026

Allotment Bonfires and waste disposal

North Mymms Parish Council strongly discourage tenants from lighting bonfires as they cause nuisance to others (at the allotments and neighbouring properties), for more environmentally friendly ways to dispose of your waste consider taking the items home and adding them to your garden waste collection or composting. It is easy to create a compost area on your allotment plot, and the compost can help your crops to grow. There are local recycling centres in Potters Bar and Welwyn Garden City where you can also take any waste.

If you do wish to have a bonfire you must contact North Mymms Parish Council to obtain permission, anyone caught having a bonfire after 1st May 2026 without prior permission is in breach of their tenancy agreement and as a result their tenancy can be terminated with immediate effect. The council will provide written confirmation of when you will be permitted to have the bonfire.

Bonfires must be built on the same day that they are lit to prevent harm to wildlife, they should be small and manageable, accelerants such as petrol, oil, or paraffin must not be used. Under no circumstances are you to bring waste onto site to burn, if you are caught doing this your tenancy will be terminated with immediate effect. Bonfires can only be used to burn allotment produce- such as potato tops, cabbage, brussel stalks, runner bean vines etc. Under no circumstances are you to burn plastic, rubber, paint, foam or polystyrene as they release harmful gases and further action may be taken against the plot holder.

You must not leave the bonfire unattended, and it needs to be extinguished before you leave the allotment site, fires can spread quickly and easily. You are responsible for checking the weather on the day of your bonfire to ensure it's unlikely the fire could spread due to high winds. Consider other plot holders and neighbouring properties when having a bonfire. Do not have bonfires too close to neighbouring plots where your fire may damage their crops etc. If your bonfire may disturb neighbouring properties, knock and let the resident know. It is an offence under the Highways Act 1986 to light a fire and allow smoke to drift across a road.