



## LLANHARAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Poultry Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Version	Adopted	Review Date
1	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	December 2021

At Llanharan Community Council, we take the safety and wellbeing of animals seriously, therefore, have developed this policy to ensure all keepers of hens on the Council Allotment Gardens understand the minimum safety and wellbeing requirements expected.

Following increased levels of avian flu, affecting poultry and captive birds in Wales, the Welsh Government, on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, declared Wales an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.

This Safety and Wellbeing Policy takes into consideration the risk mitigation measures included in the Declaration.

**The rules of this Policy must be strictly adhered to by all keepers of hens, failure to do so will result in permission to keep hens being revoked and hens must be removed by the plot holder. If the tenant refuses to remove the hens then the plot tenancy agreement will be terminated.**

***Any keeper of hens on the allotment gardens, must take the following appropriate and practicable steps, that can be demonstrated to an inspection on request.***

(1) The keeping of hens on the Allotment Gardens at Jubilee Street and Pendre is permitted, so long as they are for the tenant's own use and not for business or profit.

(2) Tenants must request permission to become a keeper of hens by contacting the Clerk to the Council. If agreed the Clerk will grant permission in writing, as a record of permission having been granted to the plot holder.

(3) Existing keepers of hens (prior to this policy being issued) must inform the Clerk that they have a flock, and an inspection may be carried out.



(4) Hens are flock animals, therefore, plot holders must keep a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 hens, regardless of how many plots they rent from the Council.

(5) Strictly no animals, other than hens are to be kept on the allotment gardens.

(6) Hens must be fed indoors or under a covered area which sufficiently discourages the landing of wild birds and thereby prevent contact by wild birds with their feed.

(7) Stray feed must be removed daily to discourage vermin.

(8) Hens drinking water must be changed daily and kept undercover to discourage the landing of wild birds, hence avoiding contamination.

Further information on keeping hens, including the ideal size of perch, house and scratching land, can be found at the British Hen Welfare Trust [www.bhwt.org.uk](http://www.bhwt.org.uk)

(9) Hens must be visited every evening (to secure them from night-time predators) in safe and suitable housing with adequate space, bedding, and perches.

(10) Feed must be locked away at night in a vermin proof container.

(11) Hens must be visited every morning to allow them to roam freely in the run during the daytime and to ensure they have adequate feed and water.

(12) The run must be securely fenced to keep hens within the plot and protect them from predators.

(13) There must be regular cleaning and disinfecting of hard surface walkways, paths to which hens or wild birds have access.

(14) The dipping/cleaning of hen equipment (drinkers etc) in the mains/communal water trough is prohibited due to the risk of cross contamination.

(15) Precautions must be taken to avoid the transfer of contamination between plots, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment and



footwear. It is strongly advised that all keepers of hens have a footwear cleaning site with brushes and liquid disinfectant at the entrance to their plot.

(16) The area must be actively managed, to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to remove feathers and faecal material from both captive and wild birds.

(17) If the run becomes muddy, well-draining material must be laid, for example, wood chips, straw, sawdust. Mud is not good for chickens, it can promote bumblefoot, internal parasites, attract flies, cause bad smells, and make it difficult for hens to get around, all of which will discourage natural foraging behaviour.

(18) Adequate area must be provided for the hens to display natural behaviour such as scratching and foraging.

(19) Measures must be in place to ensure that wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity, for example, the prevention of permanent puddles or standing water.

(20) There must be no direct contact with hens on other neighbouring plots.

(21) If wild birds are frequenting the area, active measures (for example, bird scares, foils, streamers) must be taken to discourage wild birds from entering the area.

(22) Any carcasses of hens must be immediately removed from the area and must not be buried or burnt. They must be disposed of through commercial incineration, or by double bagging and placing in your wheelie bin.

(23) If any bird on an allotment is deemed a nuisance, health hazard or their well-being is affected then they will be removed.