



# LLANHARAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL POULTRY WELLBEING POLICY

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

**The rules of this Policy (which forms part of the allotment tenancy agreement) must be strictly adhered to by all keepers of birds. Failure to do so will result in permission to keep birds being revoked and birds being removed by the plot holder. If the tenant refuses to remove the birds, then the tenancy agreement will be terminated.**

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

An inspection may be carried out at any time with reasonable notice. Should there be reasonable suspicion that hen welfare is being put at risk, or that legal requirements are not being met then an inspection may take place without notice.

- (1) The keeping of birds on the Allotment Gardens at Bridgend Road, Jubilee Street and Pendre is permitted, so long as they are for the tenant's own use and not for business or profit.
- (2) New tenants must request permission to become a bird keeper 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 birds (prior to this policy being issued) must inform the Clerk that they have a flock and detail the maximum number of birds being kept.
- (4) Birds are flock animals; therefore, plot holders must keep a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 birds, regardless of how many plots they rent from the Council.

Note: Clause 4 DOES NOT apply to existing plot holders on Pendre allotments who became plot holders prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.



(5) Strictly no animals, other than poultry (excluding cockerels and pigeons, which are prohibited) are to be kept on the allotment gardens.

(6) Birds 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) Birds' drinking water must be changed daily and kept undercover to discourage the landing of wild birds to prevent contamination.

Further information on keeping birds, 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) Birds 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) Birds 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 birds within the plot and protect them from predators.

(13) There must be regular cleaning and disinfecting of hard surface walkways and paths to which poultry 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 birds 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, and sawdust. Mud is not good for chickens; it can promote bumblefoot, internal parasites, attract flies, cause bad smells, and make it difficult for birds to get around, all of which will discourage natural foraging behaviour.

(18) An adequate area must be provided for the birds 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 birds 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 birds 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.

#### **(24) Avian Flu prevention measures**

From time to time, following increased levels of avian flu affecting poultry and captive birds in Wales, the Welsh Government, the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales or other bodies introduce measures designed to mitigate the spread of avian flu. Whilst the measures may vary, common measures include the netting or covering of all birds to prevent contact with wild birds, and to provide disinfectant and suitable equipment to allow the disinfecting of footwear and clothing at the entry and exit to all allotment plots.

As such, all plot holders keeping birds must design their runs with this in mind and MUST be able to ensure all runs are fully covered and netted within 1 week of notification from the Community Council. Plot holders must ensure they hold such equipment or supplies as necessary to be able to achieve this requirement.

All other measures put in place must be complied with as notified by the council.

#### **(25) Tenancies**

- The Clerk (Or their deputy with delegated authority) be empowered to manage the allotments and to interpret the tenancy agreement, poultry welfare policy and other policies or resolutions relating to the allotments at their discretion unless otherwise specifically instructed by resolution of council.
- That the Clerk be empowered to issue warnings to plot holders up to the level of final warnings and to carry out such steps as necessary under the terms of the

tenancy agreement (and Poultry welfare policy) up to the point of preparing an eviction notice.

- Any eviction must be recommended by the ORA Committee and resolved by Full Council in the normal manner.
- The Clerk to present a paper to the ORA Committee detailing the clause(s) of the tenancy agreement that was being breached and outlining the steps that had been taken to resolve the issue amicably along with any formal warnings issued. The paper would also present the proposed eviction notice along with any legal notes for the ORA committee to consider.

## **(26) Animal welfare**

- That an appropriate member of the ORA Committee be appointed as a second 'responsible person' to act in conjunction with the Clerk with regards the measures set out below outline the actions to be taken where there is felt to be an imminent risk to animal welfare.

The Council and the proposed appointees should carefully consider whether they have an interest under the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

- The role of 'Responsible person' to nominally fall to the sitting Chair of the ORA Committee. Or the Deputy Chair in their absence. Provided that there is no interest or conflict that may make this inappropriate.
- Where there is felt to be an imminent risk to animal welfare, that the Clerk be empowered to act immediately with assumed delegated authority, and to carry out such steps as deemed necessary by them under the terms of the Poultry welfare policy, up to but not including issuing a notice revoking a plot holder's right to keep birds on the allotment.
- To revoke a plot holder's right to keep birds, the appointed 'responsible person' must agree with the Clerk that this course of action is necessary and appropriate. Only if both parties agree that revocation is appropriate can the Clerk issue a revocation notice with an agreed period of notice. This should be recorded. All communication with the plot holder should be via the Clerk.
- A record of these actions would then be presented in a paper to the ORA Committee for retrospective consideration and would be recommended or otherwise to full council.
- The paper would detail the reasons for the revocation notice along with any evidence available, supporting the decision.
- Where a revocation notice is issued, it must be made clear to the plot holder that they have the right of appeal. The plot holder must write to the Clerk within 30 days of the date of the revocation notice being issued setting out clearly the reasons for their

appeal. This appeal will then be referred to the ORA Committee.

- Where there is felt to be a non-urgent risk to animal welfare, or breaches of the Poultry welfare policy that does not present an urgent or imminent risk to animal welfare, that the Clerk be empowered to issue warnings to plot holders up to the level of final warnings and to carry out such steps as necessary under the terms of the Poultry welfare policy up to the point of preparing an notice to revoke permission to keep birds on the allotment.
- Any non-urgent revocation notice must be recommended by the ORA Committee and resolved by Full Council in the normal manner.
- Any appeal from a plot-holder regarding the revocation of the right to keep birds does not prevent or forestall the urgent removal of those birds.