

## **BONFIRES AND INCINERATOR POLICY MAY 2016**

Although, the Council is encouraging allotment tenants to give up bonfires and incinerators and use alternative methods of disposing waste, we appreciate that not all allotment waste is suitable for compost and you may need to have a small incinerator fire. If this is the case, then we ask you to remember the following which will help to ensure that bonfires don't cause a nuisance to neighbouring residents, including your fellow allotment holders

Bonfires have been a traditional way of disposing garden rubbish but they often cause a nuisance.

- They can be very annoying to neighbours – usually from smoke or smell that stops them from enjoying their garden, prevent them from opening their windows or hanging out washing.
- They can cause air pollution – producing irritating and even poisoning compounds that contribute to poor air quality, which everyone nearby then has to breathe in.
- They can also cause a fire hazard – if they are too close to trees or fences.

Bonfires are now prohibited on the Town Council allotment sites however; the use of incinerators are allowed.

The following rules apply:

- Tenants must use a garden incinerator or similar for burning waste.
- Permissible burning times are 1<sup>st</sup> September until 1<sup>st</sup> April, however, if there is an issue with summer diseases the tenant can contact the Barnstaple Allotment Association with their issue who will then enquire to Barnstaple Town Council for special use of the incinerator.
- No material other than that produced on your plot is to be burnt on site.
- Only burn when suitable weather conditions permit to avoid causing a nuisance to local residents and other allotment holders.
- Only organic matter such as wood, pruning's and dry vegetable matter is to be burnt.
- Do not set fire to large piles of material.
- Never use old engine oil, methylated spirits, or petrol to light or encourage the fire.
- Avoid times when the wind will blow smoke over roads or into neighbouring gardens.
- Non-vegetation matter such as plastic, rubber, roofing felt or bitumen, carpet etc. shall not be burnt.
- Extinguish the fire before leaving the site – do not let the fire smoulder after you have gone.
- Only burn on your own plot – do not light fires for others.
- In the event of a reasonable complaint to the plot holder from another tenant, or a member of the public, with regard to a nuisance being caused the bonfire must be extinguished immediately.
- If a plot holder breaches this policy in any way, a Notice to Quit will be issued.