

ALLOTMENT BONFIRES FORM

If you would like to comment on this leaflet, please complete and return this part of the leaflet to the Pollution Section, Environmental Services Department at the address on the back of this leaflet.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I wish to comment on/make a complaint about: (Please provide names and addresses)

Date: _____

Alternatively telephone 01773 841308 or Email: envhealth@ambervalley.gov.uk

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Please be aware that Amber Valley Borough Council may be obliged to disclose information on this form should relevant requests be received from external parties for such information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. However, personal data shall be protected under the Data Protection Act 1998.

The address of our Headquarters is:

Amber Valley Borough Council

Town Hall, Market Place, RIPLEY,

Derbyshire DE5 3XE

Tel: 01773 570222

Fax: 01773 841343

E-mail: enquiry@ambervalley.gov.uk

Website: www.ambervalley.gov.uk

Switchboard and Reception Opening Hours

9.00am - 4.30pm Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday.

10.00am - 4.30pm Wednesday



A Minicom telephone system for hearing impaired people is now in operation at the Council.

Please dial 01773 841490

EMERGENCY NUMBER

Out of office hours only - 01773 841414

**ONLY TO BE USED IN A REAL EMERGENCY -
THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY**

Direct Dial Helplines between 9.00am - 4.30pm Monday,

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

10.00am - 4.30pm Wednesday

Council Tax Recovery 01773 841445

Business Rates 01773 841444

Benefits/Council Tax 01773 841470

Refuse Collection 01773 841326

**NEEDLES HOTLINE NUMBER IS OPEN 24
HOURS - 0800 0925131**

OUR TOWN CENTRE OFFICES

Payments and enquiries are at:

Alfreton House, High Street, Alfreton

King Street, Belper

Market Place, Heanor

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,

Friday 9.00am - 4.30pm

Wednesday 9.00am - 1.30pm

Market Place, Ripley

Opening hours: Monday - Friday

9.00am - 4.30pm



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DESIGNED & PUBLISHED BY AMBER VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELPING YOU

*with allotment
bonfires*



number 67



AMBER VALLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Caring & Working for Amber Valley

BONFIRES AND THE LAW

Each year Amber Valley Borough Council receives a number of complaints from local residents regarding allotment bonfires.

Burning allotment waste can produce smoke, soot and odour. The smoke produced contains pollutants, which add to local air pollution and reduce the air quality in the surrounding area. In addition, smoke and odour may cause a nuisance to nearby residents and other allotment-holders. If residents wish to enjoy their gardens, hang out their washing or have their windows open, a nearby bonfire may interfere with their well being or enjoyment of their property.

Many activities, such as bonfires, can be considered a nuisance. Unfortunately what one person thinks is an acceptable activity, another person may find disturbing or unpleasant. Everyone is likely to cause a nuisance to someone else at some time, but where this becomes unacceptable it may have a serious effect on someone's quality of life. At this stage, certain activities may become statutory nuisances.

There is often no set level or time at which a nuisance activity breaks the law, but it is usually considered to be where a 'reasonable person' would find the nuisance unreasonable or unacceptable.

There are no byelaws in Amber Valley that prohibit bonfires or specify times when they can or cannot be lit. The tenancy agreement for your allotment may have a complete ban on bonfires, or may restrict the hours during which you are permitted to light a fire. Please read your agreement carefully.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 enables Local Authorities to take legal action against individuals whose activities cause a regular nuisance, or are prejudicial to health.

In addition, the Clean Air Act 1993 makes it an offence to burn trade or commercial waste that emits dark smoke. Anyone who allows smoke from a fire to drift across a road may be subject to a fine under the Highways (Amendment) Act 1986 if it is causing a danger to road users.

ALTERNATIVES

A bonfire may be a convenient method for disposing of waste, but more environment friendly methods should be considered first.

Composting green waste will produce a good soil conditioner for your garden or allotment. This may reduce the amount of compost you have to buy. You can compost almost all green waste from your allotment, including vegetable matter, grass cuttings, leaves and paper in small quantities. Compost bins can be purchased at a special discount to Amber Valley Residents. Please contact 01773 841326 for further information and advice on composting.

Allotment waste can also be disposed of at Derbyshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Site at Taylor Lane, Loscoe.

BONFIRE GUIDELINES

If you must have a bonfire, please ensure you:

- Only burn dry material with a low moisture content. Do not burn green vegetation.
- Never burn household waste, rubber tyres, anything containing foam, plastic or paint, or other man-made/synthetic materials known to produce dark smoke. Do not bring material onto the allotment to be burned.
- Never use old engine oil, methylated spirits, diesel or petrol to light the fire or during the course of the fire. Agitate the base of the fire to improve air supply if the fire is burning slowly.

- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions. On damp, still days smoke hangs in the air and is more likely to cause a nuisance. If it is windy, smoke may be blown into neighbouring gardens.
- Only light fires downwind of residential properties.
- Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people may want to enjoy their gardens or hang out washing.
- Keep fires small. Continually add small amounts of material, do not build a large fire or pile material high on the fire.
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder. Douse the fire with water if you are unable to provide continuous supervision.
- Be aware that other allotment holders may also be having fires aswell, and whilst individual fires may not cause a problem, if everyone has a fire it may cause a nuisance to nearby residents.

For further information on composting:

Amber Valley Borough Council
01773 841326

HDRA
024 7630 3517
www.hdra.org.uk