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Date: 12th January 2012
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AMENITIES, LEISURE & RESORT SERVICES
Aquila House, Breeds Place
Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY

Dear

We are consulting allotment holders on the introduction of a new Tenancy Agreement with Allotment Rules, together with options for how we might manage allotments in the future.

New Allotment Rules

We started the consultation on the 9th of December 2011 and asked for comments to be returned by 12th of January 2012. However, many of you told us we hadn't given you enough time as Christmas fell within the consultation period. We therefore extended the time for you to comment until the 31st of January.

We have received many responses and have been working with your Site Secretaries to consider your comments and make changes to the original draft rules. We are now in a position to publish a second draft of the proposed rules. This new draft will be available for comment until the 17th of February 2012.

The new rules will be available on the Council's web site, at www.hastings.gov.uk/consultations. We will make copies available at the Hastings Information Centre to read or take away. There will also be copies available in the reception area of Hastings Council's Offices at Aquila House.

Please be reassured the new rules are not intended to make things difficult for plot holders but to clarify good practice and acceptable levels of cultivation. The new Tenancy Agreement and Rules are intended to come into affect on 1st April 2013.

We look forward to any further comments you have on the Rules by 17th of February 2012.

Future Management Options

We had also asked you for your thoughts on how allotments might be managed in the future. Many of you have told us quite clearly that you are satisfied with the current situation where the Council manages the allotment service and did not want to see any changes to the way the service is managed.

We have listened to your concerns. We will not progress this matter any further at this time. However, Council budgets will continue to be adversely affected by the national economic picture and we will continue to consider options for efficiencies and savings. We will prepare new proposals for your consideration later in 2012.

Rent Review

Allotment rents in Hastings are very low, whether compared to those in neighbouring authorities or private/commercial alternatives. As you will be aware, allotment rents were increased by the rate of inflation in October 2011. They will not rise again for at least 12 months. We will begin discussions with Site Secretaries during 2012 on a review of rent levels from 2013 onwards. Proposals will be dependent upon the future allotment management arrangements and will be explained within the management options consultation.

Yours sincerely

