

Buckhurst Hill Leisure Gardens Association (BHLGA)

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Code of conduct for bonfires on BHLGA sites

This code of practice is being issued following complaints from local residents to the Environmental Health Department of Epping Forest District Council ("EFDC") concerning bonfires on a BHLGA site. It incorporates recommendations from EFDC, The National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd ("NSALG") and BHLGA specific issues. It is important that all BHLGA members abide by this code. Failure to do so may render a member liable to expulsion from BHLGA membership and from his allotment.

1. Fires are allowed for the burning of materials from the Allotment Garden only i.e. diseased plants, perennial weeds and dried-out organic material that will burn with little smoke or hazardous residue. Soft weeds and green vegetable material may be composted and not burnt or should be left to thoroughly dry out before burning.
2. Tenants shall not bring or allow to be brought on to the Allotment Site any materials from elsewhere for the purpose of burning such waste. Never burn plastic waste. Never use oil or petrol to light a fire.
3. Check there are no frogs, toads or hedgehogs in the rubbish before burning it.
4. Bonfires may not be placed within six feet of any boundary of the Allotment site (ie the whole site comprising a number of plots).
5. **All fires must be attended at all times and not cause a nuisance to neighbouring residents** (especially those with washing out, open windows or enjoying their gardens) or to other plot holders. **If in doubt – put it out!**
6. Do not light bonfires less than two hours before dusk and all fires must be fully extinguished before leaving the site.
7. Specific BHLGA codes:
 - a. On the three main sites of Monkham's, Lower Queens Road and River Housing tenants are advised to light bonfires only when the wind is from the West to blow any smoke over open ground and the River Roding;
 - b. On River Housing tenants are advised not to light bonfires when cricket matches are being played on the pitches to the west of the site; and
 - c. On Monkham's the Executive Committee or the Site Managers may designate the plots on the Eastern side of the site adjacent to the Hornbeam Road flats as being no bonfire sites in which case an alternative communal bonfire site on the Monkham's site will be designated for the use of those tenants no longer permitted to have bonfires on their own plots.
8. Any plot holder found to be causing a smoke nuisance by the Environmental Health Department of EFDC and/or a member of either Buckhurst Hill Parish Council and/or EFDC and/or the Executive Committee of BHLGA or to be in breach of this Code of Practice may have their allotment tenancy terminated.