

Facilities Report

Bonfires at Allotments

As Council are aware, due to the Coronavirus outbreak, bonfires were not permitted on Bridgend Town Council allotment sites, and the guidance stated as follows:

“1. Smoke from bonfires can have a harmful effect on people with respiratory and other health issues;

2. Bonfire smoke can also cause other issues such as preventing people from opening windows and/or using their garden, both of which are extremely important during the current lockdown

Bonfires and other potentially dangerous and non-essential activities put unnecessary pressure on emergency services. Bonfires can quickly burn out of control and may cause damage to property and/or personal injury. During this pandemic both the Fire & Rescue and Ambulance Services may not have adequate resources available to deal with such emergencies quickly”

An occasional bonfire on a plot may be needed to burn those items that cannot be composted such as dried woody stems of plants and dried pernicious weeds. As Wales continues to move out of lockdown, and due to a large number of requests made from site representatives and tenants during inspection and by email, members are asked to consider lifting this temporary ban.

If the temporary ban is lifted it is suggested that the town council prepare a new guidance leaflet. A leaflet used to be issued to tenants in relation to bonfire based on a BCBC leaflet which was largely similar to the attached leaflet prepared by Shared Regulatory Services with general guidance relating to bonfires. Members may wish to renew the leaflet based on the information as highlighted in yellow.

If the ban is now lifted members may also wish to consider whether, to limit the affect on neighbours, bonfires may only be permitted on certain days of the week at certain times, for example Fridays and Saturdays between the hours and 5pm to 9 pm. This could be after consultation with the site representatives as to what they may believe to be suitable for each site. The leaflet may also give guidance on what is permitted to be burnt.