



Littlebourne Parish Council

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Dear Hen Owners,

After much discussion between the Parish Council and newly elected Horticultural Society Committee in 2014 it was decided that ten hens were a reasonable maximum number to keep on the allotment. The discussion arose after a request from an allotment holder for twenty hens, which were considered by the Parish Council to be more than any family could reasonably want for domestic egg production. Subsequently the Parish Council was made aware that some allotment holders were keeping more than ten hens on the site and in the new agreements of November 2014 the requirement for ten hens to be the maximum was included.

It was thought unreasonable that those holding large numbers of hens should have to re-house them in a short space of time and also that given a longer period of time then hen keepers could reduce numbers by not replacing those that died or stopped laying. As you will have been made aware by the Allotment Committee the time scale chosen was that compliance should be reached by April 2016, which we thought could be considered a reasonable length of time to find alternative homes for surplus hens. Also, the agreement only allows hens and not other livestock, such as ducks. This is not a new requirement but was part of the old tenancy agreement that unfortunately, was not always adhered to.

We hope that everyone will understand the reasoning behind the request and bear in mind that the allotments are run for the growing of produce and not as smallholdings. Canterbury City Council does not allow any hens on any of its allotments and the Parish Council would consider the same approach if, in April 2016, there are people who have not reduced the number of hens they own. We realise that only a small number of people are involved but we thought that in the interest of everyone on site it would be appropriate to make transparent the reasoning behind this decision and it is hoped that everyone will do their best to support the smooth running of the Horticultural Society.