Worcester City Council, your Landlord, accepts that allotment tenants will occasionally wish to burn allotment generated waste. The occasional bonfire carried out sensibly should not be a major issue. There are no specific laws against having a bonfire, or when you can have one, but there are Acts that can deal with the nuisances they can cause. If you are having a bonfire, the smoke and smell created by it can annoy your neighbours. Smoke can stop people enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out.

Bonfires - Need not always be a problem. The advice is simply to be aware of the neighbouring houses, and to be considerate of our Neighbours. On our Site with around One Hundred plots, surrounded by private housing, we have a policy of Neighbourhood Consideration.

Try to confine Bonfires to the less clement times of year, and to late in the day when our neighbours have retreated inside. In warmer weather our neighbours will have their windows open, or be enjoying time in their garden, and do not want smoke in their property.

A bonfire can be a useful way of disposing of waste that cannot be composted, and have been traditionally held to mark events, for example Bonfire Night on 5th November.

It is accepted that a bonfire may be the only way of disposing of garden waste that shouldn’t be composted e.g. diseased wood / leaves etc. Please follow these simple guidelines:

- In practice you should not burn waste that is likely to create excessive smoke or noxious fumes. Only dry waste should be burnt, when your bonfire should not cause a problem, as it creates less smoke.
- Avoid mornings & early afternoons. An evening, autumn / winter bonfire is least likely to affect your neighbours. Please avoid warm days when people will be in their garden, have windows open and washing out.
- Avoid lighting the fire in unsuitable weather conditions, especially - avoid damp, still weather, when smoke hangs in the air. Watch out which way the wind is blowing, and be considerate of your neighbours.
- Never use accelerants to light a fire.
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres or anything containing plastic, foam or paint.
- Keep your fire away from sheds, fences and buildings.
- Ensure fires are always under control, and dampened down if left.
- Where possible, warn neighbours beforehand - they are much less likely to complain

If a neighbour complains about your bonfire the Worcestershire Hub will officially log the details, and initiate an investigation by Worcestershire Regulatory Services under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended). In certain cases an abatement notice may be served, which if contravened enforcement action could follow, and result in prosecution.

Breach of Tenancy Agreement terms, Site policy, or service of an abatement notice could result in your allotment tenancy being reviewed, and terminated.

Northwick Road Allotments 30th October 2014.