

Spring Plot Survey

15 March 2024 to 30 April 2024

Please read the guidelines below which explains what the plot surveyor is checking when they come to look at your plot. Please be aware that failing the 75% cultivation point for two surveys in a row will result in eviction warnings being sent to you.

1. 75% Cultivation

- a) Your plot as a whole should look like it is being managed and your ground is in the process of being prepared for planting when the season warms up.
- b) Areas covered for weed control is acceptable in Spring and will count as cultivation. But if the same areas have been left continuously covered for more than one survey without anything being done to get it ready for planting then it will not count as cultivation.
- c) Areas for sheds, water butts, grass lawns, ponds, seating areas and any other ground not being used for cultivation must not take up more than 25% of your plot. We will be looking at non-cultivated structures on plots such as patios, sitting areas, etc. If these structures are making it difficult for the plot to have the required 75% you might need to reduce them.

2. Paths

- a) All 4 paths around the plot must be kept tidy and free of any obstructions including uneven bumps that can be a trip hazard.
- b) There are no bushes, shrubs, large plants or tree branches sticking out into the path and getting in the way.
- c) The plot borders are free of sharp objects such as metal pipes or supports, sharp edged plastic, slate, anything that could cause injuries.

3. Plot numbers

- a) Your plot number must be displayed in the corner of the plot that is nearest to the community building.
- b) Your sign must be large enough and clear enough to be easily visible from the adjoining path.

4. Hedges, fences, windbreaks no taller than 1 meter high

- a) As required by our lease with Dulwich Estate all plots should look open and not fenced in.
- b) Fruit bushes and brambles on the edges of plots are pruned and trained so that it does not go onto the path.

5. Trees are maintained and is not overgrown or shading neighbours

- a) Only crop bearing trees are allowed to be planted.
- b) Fruit/nut trees are kept pruned or trained so are no higher than approximately 3m (10ft) and do not encroach any paths.
- c) Trees should be at least 50cm in from the plot edge. Mature trees are being kept under control and in shape by regular pruning and are not causing excessive shading to other plots.
- d) Saplings & suckers from non fruiting trees must be cut and removed.
- e) Branches under 2.5m in height should not overhang other plots, paths or boundary fences

6. Shed or greenhouse

- a) There can be one greenhouse or one shed (but not both).
- b) Greenhouses and sheds must not be bigger than 6ft by 8ft and not higher than 7ft.
- c) Water butt or equivalent must be attached to collect rain water.
- d) Greenhouses and polytunnels used solely for the purpose of storing things will not be considered as part of the 75% cultivation.

7. Ponds

- a) All ponds should be at least 50cm from the edge of the plot with a low fence like structure on the path edge such as a small dead hedge to avoid people or small children falling in.
- b) Ponds should not be larger than 1m x 1m and 60 cm in depth.
- c) They should have a sloping beach like edge created with rocks or stones to allow small animals or bathing birds to make an easy exit and avoid being easily drowned.