



# Brixham Town Council

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**Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hallett**

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<b>Report Type</b>	Public	<b>Meeting</b>	Community and Environment
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Ross Green	<b>Job Title</b>	Deputy Town Clerk
<b>Report Title</b>	Allotment Capacity		

## Summary

Brixham Town Council currently owns and manages four allotment sites as below:

- Dixons Land
- Wall Park
- Drew Street
- Mount Pleasant

The Town Council also manages a further site at Penn Lane.

Allotments provide a valuable green space that gives people the opportunity to grow their own food, eat healthy, reduce their carbon footprint and improve their health and wellbeing. Brixham Town Council has a policy of 'one person one plot' to enable those on the waiting list to more readily get an allotment.

Brixham Town Council have since 2021 created an additional six allotment plots increasing the capacity from 144 to 150. This has been achieved by splitting larger plots that have become vacant into two separate plots.

Due to the well-known shortage of open space available in Brixham, consideration for a new allotment site would be faced with limited options and the cost of any acquisition being weighed against the benefit to the community as a whole.

## Recommendation

Brixham Town Council will continue to review existing allotment boundaries and explore reducing larger plots into smaller manageable areas if the opportunity arises to increase availability and minimise the waiting time.

Brixham Town Council to develop a 'Community Gardening' guidance document to support residents in creating community growing spaces.

## **Supporting Information**

### **Waiting List**

Actual waiting times cannot be predicted. The waiting time depends on plots becoming available when current holders give up their plots. The Town Council have 46 residents waiting for allotment plots currently. Potential tenants are added to the waiting list on a first come, first served basis. Residents who make applications for allotment plots are encouraged to consider each of the Town Council sites as this reduces their waiting time. The fact that some residents will be on a waiting list for more than one allotment site is reflected in the data below:

#### **Dixons Land**

- Waiting time: approximately three months.
- People on waiting list: 6

#### **Wall Park**

- Waiting time: approximately eight weeks.
- People on waiting list: 12

#### **Drew Street**

- Waiting time: approximately two years.
- People on waiting list: 32

#### **Mount Pleasant**

- Waiting time: approximately four years\*.
- People on waiting list: 5

#### **Penn Lane**

- Waiting time: approximately two years\*.
- People on waiting list: 17

\*The longest waiting resident for these allotment sites have been offered alternative plots on different sites but have not taken up those offers.

### **Community Growing Spaces**

This is about using space within the community for growing fruit and vegetables. Community growing is for everyone and the Town Council can support residents wishing to grow their own fruit or vegetables to access a range of opportunities to do just that. Growing should be accessible, affordable and allow our community to use urban spaces creatively. A guidance document created by the Town Council would offer advice on choosing a location, security, obtaining permission, finance and fundraising, and health and safety.

Brixham has a number of wonderful volunteers that successfully tend areas of planting across the town for residents to enjoy. There may be other residents in Brixham who would be willing and able to create gardens or vegetable plots in the town.

Community-based growing activity happens in different forms. They can range from a few square metres to a park-sized area and can take place in the grounds of churches and public-sector buildings, schools and nurseries, land around police stations or health centres and public parks or greenspaces.

Consideration can also be given to developing returned plots within our allotment sites for community growing. A plot on Dixons Land is already used by a group working with vulnerable young people.