

Ashford and District Smallholders

Bonfire Policy (updated May 2024)

Bonfires are permitted under the following limited conditions:

- **Bonfires are allowed between October 1st and April 1st only, on condition that they do not cause a nuisance to nearby plot-holders or residents.**

Barbecues, wood-burning stoves or food-smokers may be used outside these times if they do not cause a nuisance.

There may be very rare occasions when it is necessary to burn material left behind on a plot but the committee will only do so outside the specified months when it is unavoidable.

- Only dry plant material and wood may be burned.
- Bonfires must never contain plastic, rubber, foam or anything which can create toxic smoke.
- Before lighting a fire, members must consider whether it is likely to be a nuisance to neighboring houses or plot-holders. It is important to check for hibernating or sleeping animals.
- Petrol or other flammable liquids must never be used to light or encourage bonfires.
- It is recommended that incinerators are used to limit the size of the fire. Fires must never be left unattended and plot-holders should always be ready to control or extinguish the fire at any time. All fires must be fully extinguished before leaving the site.

Breaches of these conditions may result in membership termination.

(Anyone causing harm to another plot-holder or damage to another plot will be subject to immediate termination.)

Spelthorne Council is responsible for enforcing local bye-laws on bonfires, and can prosecute any member responsible for causing a nuisance by frequent lighting of fires or smoke.

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