

## **Ashford and District Smallholders**

### **Bonfire Policy (updated May 2024)**

Bonfires are permitted under the following limited conditions:

- **Bonfires are allowed between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**