

Teddington Allotments Questions and Answers

1. Why is it necessary for the Teddington Allotments to be reclaimed?

Historically, additional provision for allotments had been made at Teddington Cemetery (also known as Shacklegate Lane Allotments) in an unused part of the cemetery. As the community continues to grow, ensuring sufficient provision for burial sites for future generations is essential. Teddington Allotments have long been situated on land designated for burial space. Given the increasing demand, the council has decided to reclaim this land to address the shortage of burial spaces.

It is anticipated that in under a year, there will be no additional burial spaces available. To address the burial space shortage, the plan is to reclaim the land and invest in the creation of 734 additional burial spaces by fully developing both sections of the allotments. This will ensure the provision of burial spaces for the next 30 years.

2. Will there be future growing space at the Teddington Cemetery?

Yes, once these essential works are completed, we are fully committed to reintroducing community growing spaces, and this commitment is reflected in our current planning application. We would also like to highlight that the termination date is 30 September 2026, which we believe provides ample notice to ensure a smooth transition. In addition, plot holders will have the opportunity to submit an expression of interest should they wish to return to the Shacklegate Lane site once the works are concluded.

3. How will the Council minimize the inconvenience this will cause to plot holders?

To minimize inconvenience to plot holders, we will map out the spaces currently held by plot holders and aim to provide alternative allotment spaces elsewhere in the borough.

We will meet with each allotment plot holder during the summer to discuss their

options for moving and assist with planning and any required moves. We aim to move plot holders to alternative sites at the end of the growing season.

4. What is the expected timeline for this process?

We will work closely with allotment plot holders to mitigate the impact of this process. There are two phases that we need to work through:

A) Provision of alternative allotment plots at other allotment sites and site visits

We are committed to finding all existing plot holders and charity organisations plots at our other allotment sites (in line with best practice and guidance from the National Allotment Society). We have a total of 22 additional allotment sites across the borough.

Ideally, we would aim to move allotment plot holders to alternative sites in the winter season (from 1 October 2025 to February/March 2026). Our highest turnover is during this time so we will have more plots available than at other times of the year.

We will meet with existing allotment plot holders and charities during summer 2025 and discuss options for moving to different allotment sites and, where possible, will arrange visits to those sites.

The timeline for this process is below:

- May – June 2025: We will assess what current plot spaces there are. Then we will contact plot holders and charities to arrange a meeting.
- June –July 2025: We will meet with allotment plot holders and discuss the proposed plans.
- July- August 2025: We will arrange site visits to alternative allotments spaces.
- September 2025: Provide termination of tenancy notices to all plot holders on or after the 29th of September.
- 1st October 2025 – February 2026: We will begin the process of moving plot holders to alternative allotment spaces. (N.B plot holders who wish to remain at Shacklegate lane to the end of the notice period are free to remain on site until 29th September 2026)

B) Termination of existing tenancies at Teddington Allotments/Shacklegate Lane

Legally we must serve notices to allotment plot holders terminating their tenancy. We are only allowed to serve these during a specific period (from the 29th day of September in one year to the 6th of April in the following year).

We will be serving notices after 29 September 2025 to all current plot holders and charity organisations. The notice will set out the timeframe for current plot holders to vacate their plots.

5. Will plot holders be guaranteed a plot at their first choice of site?

The availability of allotment plots depends on which site plot holders want to move to. Many of our smaller and medium-sized allotment sites are fully occupied. Medium and larger allotment sites typically have a few vacant plots available year-round, with an increased number of vacancies occurring between October and March.

6. Will there be any help with moving?

We are discussing whether we can offer additional help to allotment plot holders to minimise any disruption caused by moving.

7. Will allotment rents increase or decrease?

The only changes to rent would be if a plot holder takes on a larger or smaller plot than their current plot at Shacklegate. If taking on a larger plot then there would be an increase in rent, if moving to a smaller plot then there will be a decrease in rent. We will discuss any changes fully with plot holders before they commit to any move.

8. Will there be delays to this process?

We do not anticipate delays to this process. We plan for it to be a gradual process, as we understand that this change will have a significant impact on allotment plot holders. In the case that delays do arise we will make sure to maintain open and clear communication with all plot holders.

9. How will reallocation work?

Our first objective is to assess where the plot spaces are and then we will contact each allotment plot holder with adequate notice about the reallocation process. We are currently exploring the possibility of providing transport for plot holders whose plots will be reclaimed. Also, we will inform everyone of where their alternative plots will be located. Once we create more burial spaces, we will allocate these.