



RYDE

TOWN COUNCIL

Allotment Research & Comparing

The following report is based on information collected from different Town Councils with a similar population to Ryde, as well as running a similar number of allotments. We have asked local councils from Mainland UK as well as locally on the island to create the report.

Questions asked of each council where:

- Cost of Plots Per Rod (or their equivalent measuring process).
- Average sizes of plots.
- Staffing for the running of allotments.
- What the cost of their rent covers (water usage, site repairs, maintenance of facilities on site)
- Any additional facilities or Services (Polytunnels, community share items etc).

This report has been created for the Facilities & Assets Committee to discuss the idea of potential future rent increase.

Ryde Town Council

Currently we run 5 different allotment sites (Marlborough Rd, Quarry Rd, Alfred St, Mayfield Rd & Upton Rd). These allotment sites are made up of 327 separate allotment plots. Our plot sizes run from 3.5 rods to 10 rods with the majority averaging at 5 rods. Currently we charge £6.00 per rod (0.24p per square metre). We currently review the rent every 3 years.

The following services are supplied by Ryde Town Council:

- 1x full time Allotments Officer who deals with weekly inspections, discrepancies between tenants, maintaining relevant pathways & fence lines, basic admin. (second facilities officer deals with Health & Safety, Contractors & covering allotments officer during leave).
- Cost of water bills.
- Legionella testing of pipes.
- Japanese Knotweed removal and treatment costs.
- General maintenance and repairs (including fitting of new taps).
- Annual waste collection as well as fly tipping removal.
- Security services monitoring sites daily.

Future for our allotment sites are Eco “self-composting” toilets, New Signage and Noticeboards, major improvements to wildlife areas/potential wildlife areas.

Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council

Currently they oversee 8 different allotment sites across their region. They only have full plots (10 Rods) and half plots (5 Rods). The current cost of their plots is £6.80 per rod (0.27p per square metre).

The following services they supply with the cost of rent are:

- 1x Maintenance person who cultivates uncultivated plots to offer out as well as basic checks. They are supported by 1x Part-timer to support when undertaking works.
- Basic maintenance costs covered.
- Water costs covered.

+£0.80

Brading Town Council

Brading Town Council currently oversee 1 allotment site. This site is made up of 17 different allotments. The sizes of allotments between full and half plots but majority are full plots around 10 rods. The currently cost of their plots are £5.50 per rod (0.22p per square metre). They do not cover the cost of water usage. Instead, they split it equally around all tenants.

The following services are supplied with the cost of rent:

- 1x staff member running the allotments sporadically with visits undertaken once a month to site.
- Grounds maintenance man to mow path & cut back hedges (few times a year).

-.0.50p

Ventnor Town Council

Ventnor are currently running 1 allotment site. All plots are charge at the same cost regardless of size. The current cost of plots is £100 per plot (roughly 0.40p per square metre based on a 10-rod plot).

The following services are supplied with the cost of rent:

- Basic maintenance.
- Toilet facilities supplied as well as upkeep.
- Water usage costs covered.

+£4.00

Wokingham Town Council

Wokingham Town Council currently oversee 6 different allotment sites which are made up of 420 separate plots. They measure theirs in square rods ranging from 1.5sq rods to 10sq rods (majority are 2.5sq rods). Current cost is £9.74 per rod (0.39 per square metre). This is reviewed annually. They do get access to funding through Section 106 Wokingham housing developments.

The services supplied currently covered by rent are:

- 1x part time allotments officer (works extra hours where is needed).
- Cost of water covered.
- General maintenance including grass cutting.
- Pot Banks.
- 2 waterless toilet facilities with 3 more to be added to 3 other sites in the next 12-18 months.

+£3.74

Barnstaple Town Council

Currently Barnstaple supply 5 separate allotment sites to their local community. They measure their plots in square metres ranging from 80sq metres (just over 3 rods) to 230sq metres (just over 9 rods). Current cost per sq. metre is 0.22p (£5.50 per rod). They do not cover the cost of water usage as this is split between tenants on each site. They do accept chickens to be kept on allotment sites with an information guide on how to look after chickens on an allotment.

Services supplied that are currently covered by rent:

- Part-time officer with admin staff covering any admin work for allotments.
- General maintenance and repairs.
- Waste removal when needed.

-0.50p

Yeovil Town Council

Yeovil Town Council currently have 11 different allotment sites. These are made up of 300 separate allotment plots. The plots are currently measured in square metres at a cost of 0.40p per square metre (25sq metres in a rod which works out at £10 per rod), with future recommendation of increasing to 0.43p per square metre. They have reviewed these annually with the increase to come into place for 2023. They also charge for the cost of water annually.

The following services are supplied with cost of rent:

- General maintenance works including grounds upkeep work, rubbish removal. Rotovating, tree works, weed killing and plumbing.
- Admin costs (invoicing, queries & receiving payments).
- Skips for rubbish removal.
- Security

+£4.00