

**WARWICK SHIRE COUNCIL
LOCAL LAW NO. 8
(OVERGROWN AND UNSIGHTLY ALLOTMENTS) 2001**

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title
2. Object
3. Definitions – the dictionary

PART 2 – OVERGROWN AND UNSIGHTLY ALLOTMENTS

Division 1 – Overgrown allotments

4. Overgrown allotments

Division 2 – Unsightly accumulations

5. Prohibition of visual pollution

Division 3 – Interaction with other laws

6. Notice not to affect use of land authorised by statute

PART 3 – ENFORCEMENT

7. Local government's power to have work carried out
8. Powers of entry and cost recovery

PART 4 – AUTHORISED PERSONS

9. Appointment
10. Limitation on authorised person's powers
11. Authorised person's appointment conditions
12. Authorised person's identity card
13. Production of identity card
14. Offence
15. Protection from liability

PART 5 - REVIEW

16. Reviewable decisions
17. Application for review
18. Carrying out review
19. Decision on review

PART 6 – MISCELLANEOUS

20. Defence of reasonable excuse

**SCHEDULE
DICTIONARY**

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

Short Title

1. This local law may be cited as *Local Law No. 8 (Overgrown and Unsightly Allotments) 2001*.

Object

2. The object of this local law is to prevent nuisances resulting from-
 - (a) vegetation overgrowth; and
 - (b) visual pollution resulting from unsightly accumulations of objects and materials.

Definitions – the dictionary

3. The dictionary in the schedule defines particular words used in this local law.

PART 2 – OVERGROWN AND UNSIGHTLY ALLOTMENTS

Division 1 – Overgrown Allotments

Overgrown Allotments

4. (1) If an allotment is overgrown with vegetation so the vegetation becomes unsightly or likely to attract reptiles or vermin, the occupier commits a nuisance.
- (2) If an occupier commits a nuisance under this section, an authorised person may, by written notice given to the occupier, require the occupier, within a time stated in the notice, to clear the vegetation to an extent specified in the notice.
- (3) An occupier must comply with a notice under this section.

Maximum penalty for subsection (3) – 20 penalty units

Division 2 – Unsightly accumulations

Prohibition of visual pollution

5. (1) If objects or materials are brought onto, or allowed to accumulate on, an allotment so that the visual amenity of the allotment is seriously affected, the occupier of the allotment commits a nuisance.

Examples of objects that may seriously detract from the visual amenity of land –

- *discarded or disused machinery or machinery parts;*
- *broken-down or severely rusted vehicles;*
- *discarded bottles, containers or packaging;*
- *refuse or scrap material.*

- (2) If an occupier commits a nuisance under this section, an authorised person may, by written notice given to the occupier, require the occupier, within a time stated in the notice, to -
 - (a) remove unsightly objects or materials; or
 - (b) take other specified action to stop the nuisance.

Example of action that might be required under paragraph (b) -

The notice might require the occupier to erect an appropriate structure to screen unsightly objects or materials from public view.

- (3) An occupier must comply with a notice under this section.

Maximum penalty for subsection (3) – 20 Penalty Units

Division 3 – Interaction with other laws

Notice not to affect use of land authorised by statute

6. A notice under this part cannot prevent a use of land authorised under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* or the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

PART 3 – ENFORCEMENT

Local government's power to have work carried out

7. If a person fails to have work required by a notice under this local law carried out, the local government may itself carry out the work.

Powers of entry and cost recovery

8. (1) The local government may enter land under section 1066 of the Act to carry out work under this part.
- (2) If the occupier is the owner of the relevant land, the amount properly and reasonably incurred by the local government in performing the work is recoverable (together with interest) under section 1066, 1067 and 1068 of the Act.
- (3) If the occupier is not the owner of the relevant land, the amount properly and reasonably incurred by the local government is recoverable as a debt from the occupier (together with interest) on the same basis as applies to an owner of the land under section 1067 of the Act¹.

PART 4 – AUTHORISED PERSONS

Appointment

9. (1) A local government may appoint any of the following persons as authorised persons for this local law -
- (a) employees of the local government;
- (b) other persons who are eligible for appointment as authorised persons under Chapter 15, part 5 of the Act².
- (2) An appointment of a person as an authorised person under this part must state the provisions for which the person is appointed as an authorised person.
- (3) A local government may appoint a person as an authorised person under this part only if -
- (a) the local government considers the person has the necessary expertise or experience for the appointment; or
- (b) the person has satisfactorily finished training approved by the local government for the appointment.

¹ Section 1067(2) of the Act provides for the payment of interest on the same basis as for an overdue rate.

² Chapter 15, part 5 (Enforcement of Local Government Acts).

Limitation on authorised person's power

10. An authorised person's powers may be limited in the person's instrument of appointment.

Authorised person's appointment conditions

11. (1) An authorised person holds office on the conditions stated in the instrument of appointment.
- (2) An authorised person –
- (a) if the instrument provides for a term of appointment - ceases holding office at the end of the term; and
 - (b) may resign by signed notice of resignation given to the local government; and
 - (c) if the conditions of appointment provide - ceases holding office as an authorised person on ceasing to hold another office stated in the appointment conditions (the “**main office**”).
- (3) However, an authorised person may not resign from the office of authorised person (the “**secondary office**”) under subsection (2)(b) if a term of the authorised person's employment to the main office requires the authorised person to hold the secondary office.

Authorised person's identity card

12. (1) A local government must give each authorised person an identity card.
- (2) The identity card must -
- (a) contain a recent photograph of the authorised person; and
 - (b) be signed by the authorised person; and
 - (c) identify the person as an authorised person for the local government; and
 - (d) include an expiry date.
- (3) A person who ceases to be an authorised person must return the person's identity card to the local government within 21 days after the person ceases to be an authorised person.

Maximum penalty – 10 Penalty units

- (4) The section does not prevent the giving of a single identity card to a person for this part and for other purposes.

Production of identity card

13. (1) An authorised person may exercise a power in relation to someone else (the “**other person**”) only if the authorised person -
- (a) first produces his or her identity card for the other person's inspection; or
 - (b) has the identity card displayed so it is clearly visible to the other person.
- (2) However, if for any reason it is not practicable to comply with subsection (1), the authorised person must produce the identity card for the other person's inspection at the first reasonable opportunity.

Offence

14. A person must not pretend to be an authorised person.

Maximum penalty – 50 penalty units

Protection from liability

15. (1) This section applies to –

- (a) an authorised person; and
- (b) a person acting under the direction of an authorised person.

(2) The person does not incur civil liability for an act done or omission made honestly and without negligence under this local law.

(3) A liability that would, apart from this section, attach to the person attaches instead to the local government.

PART 5 – REVIEW

Reviewable decisions

16. A decision of the local government or an authorised person under this local law is reviewable (a “**reviewable decision**”) unless it is –

- (a) a decision made by resolution of the local government; or
- (b) a decision made on an earlier application for review.

Application for review

17. (1) A person who is aggrieved by a reviewable decision may apply to the local government for a review of the decision.

(2) An application for review of a reviewable decision must –

- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) state the reasons why the applicant considers the decision should be reviewed; and
- (c) be lodged at the office of the local government within 14 days after the day on which notice of the decision was given to the applicant or within a further period allowed by the local government (before or after the end of that period).

Carrying out review

18. (1) The local government must either –

- (a) carry out a review at a meeting of the local government; or
- (b) have the review carried out by an authorised person.

(2) An authorised person who carries out a review under subsection (1)(b) must not be the original decision maker and must be a person who is no less senior than the original decision maker.

Decision on review

19. (1) On completing a review, the local government may confirm, vary or reverse the decision under review.

(2) The local government must give the applicant written notice of the result of the review.

(3) If the local government does not decide an application for review within 28 days after receiving the application, the local government is taken to have confirmed the decision under review.

PART 6 – MISCELLANEOUS

Defence of reasonable excuse

20. If a person is charged with an offence involving a contravention of a provision of this local law, it is a defence to prove that the person had a reasonable and lawful excuse for the contravention.

SCHEDULE DICTIONARY

“**allotment**” means a separate parcel or piece of land.

“**authorised person**” means a person appointed as an authorised person for this local law.

“**reviewable decision**” see section 16.

“**the Act**” means the *Local Government Act 1993*.

“**vegetation**” includes a tree, bush, shrub, plant or grass.