

## **GINHALL LANE ALLOTMENTS**

### **PROTOCOL FOR FRIENDLY MENTORSHIP ON THE ALLOTMENT SITE**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The current practice of letting vacant plots is to identify the applicant who is at the top of the list, arrange to meet them on the allotment site and show them their plot.

For all tenants expectations and abilities are variable as are levels of motivation and integration into the allotment community. Any of these factors can lead to short tenancies.

#### **RATIONALE**

Through offering each new tenant a link with an established and/or experienced allotment gardener, it is expected that they will feel welcomed into our allotment community and benefit from advice and support.

#### **PROCESS**

- Each allotment holder will be asked whether they would like to be a mentor
- Mentorship is explained as someone who is a named contact for a new tenant for approximately 3 months or a mutually agreeable period
- During this time, advice, encouragement and support will be offered as required
- Of course, mentorship is a choice for new tenants and would serve little purpose for someone who has gardening experience and acquaintances on the allotment site
- The site manager will maintain a current list of mentors and will allocate new tenants as appropriate
- If on either part there is incompatibility, the mentor can step down at any time whilst the new allotment gardener may request further input

## **OUTCOME**

- New tenants will feel welcomed and accepted into the allotment site
- Mentors will be recognised by others for their contribution to the allotment community
- New tenants will gain knowledge and experience from other allotment gardeners
- All allotment gardeners will benefit from an increased stability of tenant turnover which will enhance the sense of community

**WRITTEN BY LEOMINSTER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF  
OF LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL 2013**