

National Allotments Week 2021 9 to 15 August

Thursday 5 August, 2021

This year the National Allotment Society is Plotting for the Future and celebrating the contribution that allotments make to a sustainable future, by being economical with resources, caring for the land and supporting a balanced eco-system. We would like to take this opportunity to applaud all those gardeners and plot-holders who:

- recycle and re-use throw away items
- support bio-diversity and feed the soil
- Share their food growing knowledge with others
- Make compost and mulch the soil
- Harvest rainwater
- Have reduced pesticide and herbicide use

We would also like to mention the Plotters of the Future, young people who visit the plot with their parents or school group. These children will have planted seeds and watch a crop develop and are much more likely to do well at school, establish healthy eating habits and care for the environment in the future. The young growers who have got in touch with us here at the National Allotment Society have shown such dedication and enthusiasm – excited by the food growing skills they have acquired and their knowledge of the natural world.

Another round of applause goes to those councils creating or promoting new sites to cater for the present increase in demand for plots and the far-sighted housebuilding companies creating allotments along with new housing developments. Rose Sandell, Group Communities Director at housebuilder Redrow, has told us:

“Our research* shows that proximity to green space is the most sought-after community feature when searching for a new home, a bigger priority even than being close to local transport routes and supermarkets and shops. Green spaces come in all shapes and sizes and allotments provide a host of benefits for the communities they serve.

“They are an increasingly important deliverable alongside our new homes as they encourage users to enjoy the outdoors, get active in the fresh air and spend time in nature, as well as promoting a more nutritious diet through own-grown fruit and vegetables. We are committed to creating more opportunities for people to get closer to nature and enjoy the resulting benefits. Allotments have the advantage of encouraging pollinator species and are an ideal location for beehives and other wildlife friendly areas.

“Over the next two years we will be creating just over six hectares of allotment space, the equivalent of up to 1,000 quarter-sized allotment plots for the use of local people, within or close to our new developments. To help visualise this, that’s around 10 football pitches of new space dedicated to growing fruit and vegetables, providing a haven for people and wildlife.**

“We are finding allotments are increasingly in demand as people become more aware of the benefits of growing their own produce. As a result, the local authorities we work with at the planning stage to deliver new communities are flagging them more frequently than previous as a key feature people would like to see delivered alongside new homes. Our expectation is that they will continue to be a valuable neighbourhood amenity in the years ahead.”

It’s clear that Redrow and the other homebuilders providing allotments have seen the long term benefits to communities of having access to a space to grow your own. We sincerely hope that this will continue and allotments will be seen as a vital part of any new housing developments. In recent months there has also been an increase in the number of requests for help and support from councils wanting to expand their allotment portfolio and enable their residents to access allotment growing and Plot for the Future.

Ends

Notes to Editors

About the National Allotment Society

The National Allotment Society is the only national organisation which campaigns for the rights of allotment holders across the UK; protecting, promoting and preserving allotments for all. It is a

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not-for-profit organisation that provides free legal advice, a bespoke benefits package and the services of a regional representative to its members. To find out more visit www.nsalg.org.uk

For PR and media enquiries relating to The National Allotment Society contact diane@nsalg.org.uk Tel 0117 941 8419

About Redrow

[Redrow](#) was established in 1974 and today is one of the most successful and acclaimed homebuilders in the country. For the year to 28th June 2020, Redrow built over 4,000 premium new homes across England and Wales.

* Research of 2,004 UK adults was conducted on behalf of Redrow by Opinium, June 2020.

**Redrow is due to create just over 6.3 hectares of sites for allotments to be delivered in the financial years ending 2022 and 2023 (combined). Allotments come in different sizes depending on location and demand, but based on the full allotment size of 250 square metres this equates to 252 plots; or 504 half plots; or 1,008 quarter plots.

A full plot (250 square metres) is around the size of a doubles tennis court, for reference. Source: National Allotment Society. The comparison to 10 football pitches is based on a football field being 0.714 hectares in size. Reference [here](#).

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