

Magor with Undy Town Council

Allotment Sites

Water Supply

The Town Council have three allotment sites at:

- Green Moor Lane
- Undy
- Sycamore Terrace

Neither Green Moor Lane allotments or Undy benefit from a water supply while Sycamore Allotments have access to a supply which is also connected to the MUGA unit for which Council are billed biannually by Dwr Cymru Welsh water.

During this prolonged dry summer, the office has received a good number of enquiries from tenants at both Green Moor Lane and Undy highlighting the difficulties that have experienced maintaining cultivation of their plots having used up the water collection from water butts and containers collected during the autumn and winter 2025. Many are transporting water from their homes and that the costs were outweighing the benefits of cultivation of his own produce.

They have each asked whether the Town Council could introduce a water supply to each of these allotments and have repeated what has been frequently reported on various news channels about 'climate change' and that the UK is likely to experience similar dry spells during the summer months in future years.

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.

Welsh Water has been provisionally contacted to explore the introduction of a water supply to each of these allotments. We are informed that a 'new connection' application (for which there is accost of £172) requires submission to Welsh Water upon which they will then conduct an investigation to determine the measures needed for installation of a supply.

Welsh Water would lay the main communication pipe in the street up to your property boundary. The private supply inside the boundary shall be installed by an approved contractor. There are further considerations dependant upon where the main supply is located nearest to each allotment site. These considerations relate to: Connection & Infrastructure charge which will attract bespoke connection fees based on required labour alongside standard one-off infrastructure charges for water. Also, extra fees would apply if the work requires road closures and traffic management.

In respect of Green Moor Lane, the nearest water main is likely to be located in Kensington Park/Seymour Place while for Undy the nearest water main lies on Pankhurst Drive.

In view of the infrastructure at both sites it is likely that the cost installation at Green Moor Lane due to road excavations will be higher than an installation at Undy.

Water Bore Holes

Borehole water is groundwater accessed by drilling a narrow, deep shaft into underground aquifers. It provides an independent, private supply that bypasses public mains systems, offering natural mineral-rich water filtered through layers of rock and chalk.

A specialized rig bores deep into underground water-bearing rock or sand layers. Steel or PVC pipes line the shaft to stop collapses and block surface pollution.

Submersible electric pumps hang deep inside to push water up to the surface. The key benefits are that there will be no bills for this supply it is less vulnerable to surface droughts and summer restrictions. Yes, an electric supply is typically needed to run a water borehole. A submersible electric pump sits deep underground inside the borehole to push water up to the surface, and a pressure switch or control box manages the system on demand.

There will be an upfront cost for professional surveying and drilling and it will require periodic water testing and pump servicing.

Burning

A number of direct reports regarding burning of garden fires at Undy Allotments were communicated to the Council Office, Council Members and County Councillors during the dry summer months. There were also many posts and comments on social media referring to the same issue and it is clear that smoke from the incidents of burning was creating a nuisance for some residences at Greystone Meadows.

There is no overarching national law that bans allotment garden fires. However, there is an expectancy for the exercise of responsibility for compliance with environmental standards. Should residents and neighbours experience frequent and excessive smoke from garden fires it could constitute a 'nuisance' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

There are no hard and fast rules and regulations but to ensure that burning garden fires does not present a nuisance, only dry plant materials such as brambles, pruning's and weeds should be burnt. There also exists recommendations that 'burning' in the late afternoon/early evening is less likely to cause disruption to neighbours.

MUTC tenancy/rent agreement with plot holders on any of the three allotment sites does not have any conditions in respect of burning.

Research shows that standard UK allotment tenancy conditions attempt to strictly regulate garden fires, generally permitting only dry, disease-free organic waste from the tenant's own plot to be burned during specific cooler months (often October to March), provided the fire is constantly attended, safely contained, and causes no smoke nuisance to neighbours or roads.

It is recommended that Council consider the formation of a Working Group to include stakeholders (allotment tenants) to research and give consideration for introduction of water supply at Green Moor Lane and Undy Allotments and to review the current terms and conditions of the tenancy/rent agreement to make suitable provision in respect of burning/allotment garden fires.