

07/17/09 - Why are you waiting?

Currently, due to such high demand, the waiting list for allotments is closed even though there are **39 unused plots** on the Aldershot Road site. When you consider the waiting list across Guildford is now over 500 it does seem strange that the council will not allow these 39 unused plots to be used by the community?

Adequate provision of allotments is a political decision. Please write to your local councillors or MP about the fact that 39 plots are unused on the top of the Aldershot Road site (Guildford Allotment Society is not allowed to rent them out). This area is still 'earmarked' for housing even though this is a statutory site and representations for change of use would need to be made to the Secretary of State. These representations would need to show that the allotments were surplus to requirements. This is clearly untrue as numbers of people on waiting lists across Guildford have risen to over 500. There are over 100 people in Westborough alone waiting for an allotment. As well as this, the recent site allocations consultation showed that local residents want this open space kept for allotments for future generations.

Do you think it is right that the local council is keeping 39 plots in an unused state when the waiting list is so long?

The Aldershot Road site is Guildford's only site with a formalised teaching program to encourage the next generation of food growers