

13 Buttermere  
Hemsby  
Great Yarmouth  
NORFOLK  
NR29 4JZ

20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Shirley Weymouth  
The Parish Clerk  
Hemsby Parish Council  
3 Pedlars Croft  
Hemsby  
Great Yarmouth  
NORFOLK  
NR29 4JX

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Parish Council,

I write this letter to you on behalf of a number of residents of Hemsby who are electors and / or Council Tax payers. We share a common interest in obtaining allotments in Hemsby. A list is appended at the end of this document for your perusal.

Most nearby villages already have allotments, including; Winterton, Martham, Ormesby St Michael, Ormesby St Margaret, Belton with Browston, Bradwell, Filby, Fleggburgh, Fritton with St Olaves, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Repps with Bastwick and Rollesby. Hemsby is one of the few that does not provide this important facility to it's residents.

We have been advised by Mr Chris Skinner at the Central Services Dept., Great Yarmouth Borough Council to contact you. We are advised that there is a duty for Councils to provide allotments where the Borough or Parish Council are of the opinion that there is a demand for allotments in the Borough or Parish. This duty is set out in section 23 of the Smallholdings and Allotment Act 1908. In considering whether this duty arises, the Borough or Parish council must take into account any representations signed by six or more electors or Council Tax payers.

Since our request to be provided with allotments relates solely to Hemsby, this seems to be a matter which we need to pursue further with the Parish Council. We therefore wish to formally request that you provide allotments in accordance with the 1908 Act. We believe that this document proves to the Parish Council that there is a demand for allotments in Hemsby.

We have agreed to keep Mr Chris Skinner informed of our progress in this matter.

Allotment gardening is a popular and healthy activity, actively encouraged by the Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Please see the document on their website entitled :-

A Leisure Strategy for Great Yarmouth 2006 – 2016 “Getting Great Yarmouth Fit and Active”

Allotments are an important way for people to help provide wholesome fruit and vegetables for themselves. This is especially true in today's difficult economic climate where good quality produce is beyond the reach of families on low incomes. With modern dwellings featuring smaller and smaller gardens, if any at all, there is no way for most people to grow useful crops at home.

It is true that theoretically there are allotments in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston available to Hemsby residents. This is not an acceptable solution for a number of obvious reasons. Clearly it would require each allotment holder to have their own transport. Public transport would be impractical if not unsafe due to tools and equipment. The cost of travel in monetary terms would be quite prohibitive and the cost to the environment considerable. This cannot be considered as a substitute for local plots in and around Hemsby.

It is understood that suitable land in Hemsby is at a premium. However we would like to remind you that under Section 25 of the Smallholdings and Allotment Act 1908, a local authority has the power to compulsorily purchase or lease land for allotments if land cannot be acquired by private agreement.

We therefore earnestly request your proper consideration of our application. Please recognise our resolve and determination in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Galer  
Encs.

We, the undersigned, as electors or Council tax payers, hereby give notice to the Hemsby Parish Council, that we require allotments to be provided within the village.

	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Previous allotment experience? (Yes/No)</b>
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				