



Dr Beccy Cooper MP

Member of Parliament for Worthing West

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Jack Powis
Worthing Allotment Management

Sent by e-mail

7th November 2025

Dear Jack,

I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for welcoming me to West Tarring Allotments on October 18th. It was a pleasure to meet you and everyone at West Tarring Allotments and learn more about the invaluable work you do.

I was especially impressed by the sense of community and your work on encouraging wildlife to flourish. The passion and commitment of everyone involved are obvious to see, and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to see this first-hand.

To confirm our discussion about the current government's policy on allotments:

- Current rules were put in place by the previous government in 2016 and haven't been changed by the current government.
- Ministerial approval is required to dispose of an allotment and these approvals in 2024 were lower than the average in previous years.
- Like playing fields, only sold when necessary and the legal threshold is met.
- The National Allotment Society (NAS) has also been clear on the issue saying there has been "no change to the legal protections that apply to statutory allotments" and that "no statutory site can be sold or developed without going through a clearly defined legal process".
- NAS said the eight approvals represented a slight decrease in allotment disposals in recent years, and that it had not challenged any of the applications as they had all met the legal threshold with either low take-up of plots or alternative allotment space provided elsewhere.

My team are waiting for an answer from Worthing Borough Council about the statutory status of council owned allotment sites in Worthing, including West Tarring. We will also be in touch to arrange a meeting with St Lawrence Surgery about social prescribing.

Constituency Office:

6 Railway Approach, Worthing, BN11 1UR

Email: Beccy.cooper.mp@parliament.uk



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If there is anything I can do to support your work, whether locally or in Parliament, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I would love to stay connected and see how I can help champion the issues that matter to you.

Once again, thank you for your time and for such a warm welcome—I hope to visit again in the future.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beccy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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