

Uttlesford District Council Welfare Garden and Welfare Redecoration Scheme

April 2014

Welfare Garden Scheme

The aim of the gardening scheme is for Uttlesford District Council to offer assistance to tenants who are unable to maintain their gardens because they have a physical or mental health disability or a long term illness.

For some tenants this may be a one-off clearance that then enables them to keep their garden tidy in the future, whilst others may need regular maintenance visits as well.

To qualify for the Welfare Garden Scheme you must meet all of the following criteria:-

- Be an Uttlesford District Council tenant
- Not have any relatives or friends living nearby or household members, who are capable of maintaining the garden
- Be in receipt of a health or disability related benefit (if you do not receive this type of benefit but have health problems or a disability that makes it difficult for you to maintain your garden, you may still be considered for this scheme.)

How much does the service cost?

One-off clearance - **£20**

One-off large clearance - **£45** (Substantial clearance where the majority of the garden is higher than 1 meter, this includes bramble, grass and weeds)

Grass cutting throughout the growing season and up to two hedge cuts a year – **£3 per week** (This charge will not be covered by housing benefit and is payable throughout the year)

How do I sign up for the scheme?

Contact your housing officer on 01799 510510. They will visit your property and carry out an eligibility assessment.

Please be aware: tenants who are in rent arrears are not automatically eligible for the maintenance visits. Each case will be reviewed individually.

You will be notified in writing if you are eligible for the scheme and how you can pay for it.

What is not included in the scheme?

- Tree work will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- Rotavating or garden levelling
- Paving or fences
- Removal of hazardous materials, including glass, toxic liquids/chemicals
- Removal of trees, bushes and hedges

Tenants who currently receive the welfare garden service will continue to receive the service under the current eligibility criteria until April 2015. Tenants will then be assessed under the new eligibility criteria and will be informed in writing if they still qualify to receive this service and will be charged accordingly.

Welfare Redecoration Scheme

The aim of the scheme is to offer assistance with internal redecoration for tenants who are housed in designated elderly person's accommodation who have a physical or mental health disability or a long term illness.

To qualify for the Welfare Redecoration Scheme you must meet all of the following criteria:-

- Be an Uttlesford District Council tenant in designated elderly persons accommodation
- Be in receipt of a health or disability related benefit (if you do not receive this type of benefit but have health problems or a disability that makes decorating your property difficult, you may still be considered for this scheme.)
- Not have any relatives or friends living nearby or household members who are capable of decorating your home
- Have a room that is need of redecoration

How many rooms will be decorated?

The Council will decorate **one** room every **two years**. Rooms will be decorated using standard paints - If you would like specific paint to be used or wish to have a room wall-papered then you must provide the paint and paper.

What is the cost of the scheme?

The scheme will be free providing you meet the eligibility criteria.

How do I sign up for the scheme?

Contact your housing officer on 01799 510510. They will visit your property and carry out an eligibility assessment.

Please be aware: tenants who are in rent arrears are not automatically eligible for the redecoration scheme. Each case will be reviewed individually.