

# December 2015: If you haven't already, tell the Council: No reduction in services, no rent rise.



*City Road Allotment is a winter landscape snow scene of an allotment plot on a site in the middle of Dundee. Painting by John Stoa. Website: [johnstoa.co.uk](http://johnstoa.co.uk)*

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, but only if you've told the Council not to take more from and give less to allotment holders.

The Budget Consultation has been extended and will close on Thursday 17th December. To take part, click [here](#).

The Council wants to raise allotment rent from January 2017 by 10%. They also want to remove the waste uplift and pest control services from April 2016.

Please tell the Council that allotment holders have already gone further than most citizens in paying their way. Rents rose from £60 to £100 (for full plots) over the 5 years to 2014. Edinburgh allotments are the most expensive in Scotland - by far. The price we pay is only exceeded in the

UK by some inner London sites. The agreement to raise rents included a 5 year rent freeze from 2015 to 2020. To come back for more so soon is out of order.

The Council proposes to stop all Trade Waste uplift services across the city. This means that those sites that are included (and not all are) will lose out. FEDAGA argues that if a service is taken away there should be a proportionate reduction in rent. Site associations will in future have to make their own arrangements. This will have to be paid for somehow. FEDAGA is set against the removal of pest control services. Badly managed plots have contributed to the presence of undesirable pests, primarily rats and rabbits. These should be dealt with by a professional. The service should stay.

Please make sure these arguments are heard by the Council before the deadline. Do it now.

And then you can look forward to Christmas...



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