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Protect the land from dereliction

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CONGRATULATIONS are due to Sheffield City Council for helping hundreds of local families enjoy the pleasure of growing their own food in the years ahead. For the authority has been busy investing £75,000 in reclaiming 200 allotments which had fallen into a sorry state of dereliction.

The work has been carried out at various locations across the city and will help meet the growing enthusiasm for home-grown produce and the exercise and companionship. This shows real willingness on the part of the city council to match a very real need among the people of Sheffield. However, we feel the public of Sheffield need to be told quite clearly what went wrong in the first place to allow hundreds of allotments to become derelict.

The enthusiasm for allotments may have been new-found in the city. But that still does not mean that people with neighbouring allotments should have to put up with overgrown weed patches next door.

Be prepared for a thief-free Christmas

WATCH out, there's a Christmas thief about. It may seem quite a while before the seasonal holiday arrives but police in South Yorkshire are showing themselves to be quick off the mark to warn local business people to be on their guard over the festive period.

They have a Business Crime Reduction Centre for the county, which warns that the traditional shut down of businesses, offices and factories, which comes at this time of the year, offers a prime opportunity for thieves to plunder premises.

They are now supplying good, sound advice to businesses to be on their guard and we encourage everyone to take note. The last thing anyone wants is to return to work after a relaxing holiday to find property stolen - and having to deal with the damage caused in the process.

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