



Battle Town Council



POLICY FOR KEEPING BEES ON ALLOTMENT PLOTS

1. Consent

Bees shall not be kept on any allotment plot unless the plot holder has submitted a written request to and has received consent from, the Council. Plot holders do not have a statutory right to keep bees on allotments.

A maximum of one hive may be permitted per allotment to 252m² allotment and two hives for any exceeding this size.

2. Consultation

A notice must be prominently displayed on the plot, notifying other plot holders that a request to keep bees has been made. Such notice should be displayed for a minimum period of 28 days in the growing season and 56 days outside the growing season, indicating that the Council is considering the request.

Once consent has been granted, permanent notices must be displayed on the plot to advise other plot holders of beekeeping activity.

3. Competency and insurance

The beekeeper must be a member of the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) and must be covered by the Association's £5m public liability insurance cover. Membership and insurance cover must be maintained whilst keeping bees on the allotment.

Beekeepers must ensure that they provide competent care and management and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the wellbeing of the bees. Management and manipulations must, as far as possible, be carried out at appropriate times in order to minimise disturbance to other plot holders. The BBKA operates a well-established national system of assessments and examinations for beekeeping skills at a number of levels and it is expected that a beekeeper should, as a minimum, have passed the BBKA's Basic Assessment in Beekeeping.

4. Duty of care

The beekeeper has a duty of care to other allotment gardeners working nearby, and to all members of the public, including those who have no lawful reason to be on the allotment. To this end, s/he must ensure that only gentle strains of bee are kept. If the bees become aggressive or exhibit an excessive 'following' tendency, the beekeeper shall arrange to re-queen the colony, or remove the colony altogether until its undesirable traits have been resolved.

5. Location of hives

Hives should be located towards the centre of the plot with the entrance facing away from nearby paths, and the entrance and sides must be suitable screened to a height of 2 metres. If a beekeeper wishes to place a hive other than in the centre of a plot, a written request must be made, and the Council's consent obtained, before a hive is so placed.

The beekeeper shall inspect the hives weekly from April to July in accordance with BBKA guidelines.



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6. Stand-by arrangements

The beekeeper must provide the Council with contact details (name, address and telephone numbers) of a person of sufficient competence to deal with emergencies such as swarming during any such period that the beekeeper is absent or unavailable. These details must also be prominently displayed by the beekeeper at or near the entrance to the allotment at all times.

7. Complaints and withdrawal of consent

The Council may issue a notice requiring the removal of the hives within 14 days if:

- The beekeeper contravenes any of the conditions stated in this policy;
- A complaint that the bees have caused nuisance or danger to other plot holders or members of the public is upheld; or
- Substantive information is received that requires a review of the arrangements.

To Battle Town Council

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the additional conditions of tenancy laid down by Battle Town Council in their policy for beekeeping on allotment plots.

Signed: _____

Allotment and plot number: _____

Date: _____

Adopted 2016
Updated March 2021
Review date 2025