

Report on Effectiveness of Bee Bricks for Battle Town Council

Background information

The idea of introducing bee bricks into construction was first raised in a motion to Brighton & Hove City Council in 2019. Subsequently, in 2020 B & H CC made the introduction of bee bricks mandatory in certain conditions.

A resident on Battle Parish has highlighted bee bricks and asked BTC to consider whether P and T should also introduce recommending the inclusion of bee bricks into their planning comments.

It was agreed at P and T 08.02.22 that the effectiveness of bee bricks would be investigated and reported back to both P and T and Environment Committees.

What are bee bricks?

Bee bricks are the same dimensions as a standard house brick, available in a variety of colours and have numerous holes in the walls which solitary bees can use for nesting and hibernation.

Environmental expert opinion of bee bricks

There are concerns about mites and other insects also making their home in the bee brick and therefore spreading disease. Regular cleaning of the holes is probably required. Another environmental specialist stated that the holes were not deep enough to make any real difference to the solitary bee population. The general conclusion from the scientists is that the Brighton experiment provides a valuable opportunity for research but there is not sufficient evidence for encourage other authorities to make installing bee bricks as a requirement as yet.

Conclusion

As BTC is not in a position to participate in bee habitat research, it is not recommended that bee bricks be introduced to their estate buildings or as a recommendation to planning applications. BTC can, however, continue to encourage nectar rich planting with even greater commitment.

Cllr Sue Burton
21.02.22

Reference -; The Guardian, 18th Jan 2022