

# **KIDSGROVE TOWN COUNCIL**



## **Allotment Bee Keeping Policy**

**September 2020**

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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to prospective beekeepers who wish to place bee hives on Kidsgrove's allotment sites. It sets out the process to follow and the actions that have to be taken prior to formal approval being given by the Town Council and respective Allotment Association.

The attached form must be completed to make an application to keep bees.

## **2. Conditions**

### **a. Initial Consideration**

Bees shall not be kept on any allotment plot unless the applicant has submitted a written request by filling out the attached Application Form and has received written consent from Kidsgrove Town Council. Allotment Holders do not have a statutory right to keep bees on allotments.

The beehives must be for personal use only.

The tenant/beekeeper must be a member of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA). The tenant/beekeeper must maintain their membership of the BBKA whilst keeping bees on the allotment in order to ensure that the Associations insurance cover is maintained by the tenant/beekeeper. Evidence of membership (including valid insurance cover) must be produced by the tenant/beekeeper prior to permission being granted and annually thereafter.

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. Evidence of passing the basic assessment must be provided to the Council prior to written permission being granted.

### **b. Siting of Hives**

The tenant/Beekeeper must have completed a risk assessment, agreed with the site Allotment Association, and submitted it to Kidsgrove Town Council prior to the siting of the Hive/s.

Bees are to be encouraged to fly at a good height (i.e. above head height) by surrounding the hives with a 2-metre high fence or similar boundary; (bird netting, trellis covered with plants, or tall plants can be adequate). The position and construction of this fence/barrier is to be agreed in writing with Kidsgrove Town Council prior to its installation.

The site should be as far away from other plot holders and nearby residences as possible.

The tenant/beekeeper must ensure that there is a water supply for the bees close to the hives, so the bees do not fly to taps or any open water.

### **c. Ongoing management of the beehives**

The tenant/Beekeepers must ensure that they provide competent care and management of the Bees and Hives and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the wellbeing of the bees. Management and manipulations of the Bees and Hives must, as far as possible, be carried out at appropriate times in order to minimise disturbance to other plot holders.

The tenant/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 bees are kept. If the bees become aggressive or exhibit excessive 'following' tendency, the tenant/beekeeper shall arrange to requeen the colony or remove the colony altogether until its undesirable traits have been resolved, and this action must be undertaken at the tenant/beekeeper's expense.

Handling bees should be done at times when the bees are highly active, thus leaving fewer in the hive. When opening hives every care should be taken to ensure that it is not a busy time (i.e. busy weekend afternoons), and that the weather conditions are favourable (i.e. not raining, windy or thundery.)

Always ensure there is someone else on site in case of emergency when handling bees.

Protective beekeeping clothing must be worn. 3

Tenants must accept full responsibility for the hive. Should a swarm occur, the tenant is responsible for ensuring that the bees are removed by a suitably qualified beekeeper at the tenant's expense. 2.8.

All hive equipment is to carry a suitable mark identifying its owner.

The tenant/beekeeper shall inspect the hives weekly from April to July in accordance with BBKA guidelines and advise other tenants via the allotment manager about this inspection procedure to ensure they are aware of greater number of bees flying during the inspections

Defra officials, the Regional Bee Inspectors, have statutory powers to access hives to deal with disease. The Council will co-operate fully with them in this regard.

## **3. Stand-by arrangements**

The tenant/beekeeper must provide the Council with contact details (name, address, email, 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.

#### **4. Complaints and Withdrawal of Consent**

Initially, any complaints from plot holders or members of the public should be directed to Kildsgrove Town Council for consideration and hopefully resolution. If the Clerk is unable to deal with the complaint, then it should be referred to the Environment and Allotments Committee.

Should the Parish Council receive several complaints it will be necessary for a re-evaluation of the appropriateness of the siting of bee hives on the particular site to be undertaken.

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.

#### **5. Links for Information**

[British Beekeepers Association link](#)

<https://northstaffsbees.org.uk/>

# Kidsgrove Town Council

## Application to keep Honey Bees – One Beehive.

Applicant Details	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Allotment Plot Number</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Home Telephone Number</b>	
<b>Mobile Number</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Location of Hive</b>	
<b>Bee Keeping Association Membership</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;">I confirm that I consent to my details being held by Kidsgrove Town Council for the purposes of Bee Keeping and that I have read and will abide by the Bee Keeping Policy adopted by Kidsgrove Town Council.</p> <p>Signed ..... Dated .....</p>	
Arrangements in the event of the Bee Keeper being absent	
<b>Name of Relief Bee Keeper</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	
<b>Mobile Number</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Bee Keeping Association Membership</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;">I confirm that I consent to my details being held by Kidsgrove Town Council for the purposes of being the relief Bee Keeper in the event the applicant is away.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signed ..... Dated .....</p>	
<p><b>Checklist:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have read the Bee Keeping Policy and LO15 Leaflet from the BBKA</li> <li>I have completed and attached a Risk Assessment</li> <li>I have attached a copy of the Public Liability Insurance for the Bee Keeping and Relief Bee Keeper.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Kidsgrove Town Council Use Only:</b></p> <p><b>Date received:</b></p> <p><b>Date considered:</b></p> <p><b>Outcome:</b></p>	