



### **Allotment Beekeeping Agreement**

Bees can provide a tremendous benefit to allotment holders, pollinating plants over a wide area for increased crop yields as well as providing honey for the beekeeper. Not all sites offer suitable location for hives and being places used by members of the community who may know little of beekeeping, there are certain constraints placed on beekeepers. Within these constraints, we hope that you enjoy allotment gardening and beekeeping on Brickhill allotments.

**The Agreement:** When the parish council gives permission to a tenant to keep bees on their plot, the tenant must abide by the terms of this Agreement. The parish council reserves the right to withdraw its permission should a tenant fail to do so and to give written notice of one month for the hives belonging to the tenant to be removed.

**Review of Agreement:**

The Allotment and Open Spaces Committee reserves the right to review this agreement as required. Before making any changes, the Committee will give you notice of such changes.

**Tenancy:**

Any person keeping bees on allotment land must be an allotment tenant and is bound by the Tenancy Agreement in addition to this agreement.

**The Plot:**

An allotment tenant must obtain permission from the Allotment and Open Spaces Committee to keep bees on an allotment. The Committee will consider the location of the plot in relation to neighbours, the potential for locating the hive(s) on the plot in relation to other allotment users and the number of other beekeepers already present on the site. An allotment may not be rented for the storage of beekeeping equipment or unattended hives.

*Guidance: A plot which borders a residential property will not usually be considered suitable for beekeeping and 10 hives per 100 poles is considered the maximum beneficial presence. Should a plot be deemed unsuitable, where possible an alternative location will be offered for beekeeping.*

**The Beekeeper:**

The beekeeper must be a member of a beekeepers' association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA), and must be covered by a suitable third-party

insurance. Membership and insurance cover must be maintained whilst keeping bees on the allotment. The Allotment Officer will need evidence of this.

The beekeeper must have completed the BBKA Basic Assessment and must present his or her certificate to the Allotments Officer before receiving permission to keep bees on the allotment.

The beekeeper will ensure that a reliable daytime contact number for himself or herself or a person competent at dealing with bees is displayed on the plot boundary.

**The Hives:**

No more than 3 hives and 1 nucleus may be located on one plot. Hives must be located towards the centre of the plot with the entrance facing away from nearby paths (and preferably facing south-east) and the entrance and sides must be suitably screened to a height of 2 metres.

Hives shall be inspected weekly from April to July by the beekeeper, in accordance with BBKA guidelines.

**The Bees:**

The beekeeper must ensure that gentle strains of bees are kept and if the bees become aggressive or exhibit excessive “following” tendency, he or she will arrange to re-queen the colony (or remove the colony until its undesirable traits have been resolved).

The beekeeper must carry out such management and manipulations of the colonies as are necessary to minimise the issue of swarms.

Management and manipulations must be timed, as far as possible, to minimise disturbance to other plot holders and the beekeeper is encouraged to liaise with neighbouring plot holders in order to facilitate this.

Adequate water provision for the bees must be made on the plot to reduce instances of bees drinking on neighbouring plots. Note that mains water is provided on allotments from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to the end September only. Alternative provision must be made at other times.

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January 2020