

Polegate Town Council



BEEKEEPING ON ALLOTMENTS POLICY

Policy Number 06		
Issue No.	Date completed	Details of amendments
1	20.05.13	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
2	23.05.16	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
3	22.05.17	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
4	21.05.18	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
5	20.5.19	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
6	05.05.21	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
7	16.05.22	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
8	22.05.23	Adopted at Annual Stat meeting
9	20.05.24	Adopted at Annual Stat meeting
10	19.05.25	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting
11	11.05.26	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting

1. Consent

1.1 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.

1.2 A maximum of two hives may be permitted per full (10 rod) allotment plot and one hive per half (5 rod) allotment plot.

2. Consultation

2.1 A notice must be prominently displayed on the plot, notifying other plot holder that a request to keep bees has been made. Such notice should be displayed for a minimum period of 28 days in the growing seasons and 56 days outside the growing season, indicating that consideration of the request is being given by the council.

2.2 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

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

3.2 Beekeepers must ensure that they provide competent care and management and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the well-being of bees.

Management and manipulations must, as far as possible, be carried out at appropriate times to minimise disturbance to other plot holders. The BBKA operates a well-established national system of assessments and examinations for beekeeping skills at several 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

4.1 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 they must ensure that only gentle strains of bee are kept. If the bees become aggressive or exhibit 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

5.1 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 suitably screened to a height of 2 metres. If a beekeeper wishes to place a hive other

that at the centre of the plot, a written request must be made, and the Council's consent obtained, before a hive is so placed.

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

6. Stand by arrangements

6.1 The beekeeper must provide the Council with contact details (name, address, phone number and email address) 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

7.1 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.

Statement prepared for adoption by Polegate Town Council at its meeting on 11.05.26

Signed by

Mayor of Polegate

Town Clerk/ Proper Officer/ RFO

To: The Town Clerk, Polegate Town Council

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

Signed:

Date:

Allotment and plot number: