



STOW ON THE WOLD TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY DOCUMENT FOR BEE KEEPING ON ALLOTMENTS

Bees shall not be kept on any allotment plot unless the tenant has submitted a written request to and has received written consent from the council. Tenants do not have a statutory right to keep bees on the allotments.

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

As a minimum, bee keepers must have undertaken beginners training with a local association operating under the British Bee Keeping Association (BBKA) and preferably have achieved the BBKA's Basic Assessment in Bee Keeping.

The bee keeper must provide a copy of their public liability insurances annually (usually included with BBKA membership for up to £5 million) in respect of their bee keeping activities to the council.

Bee keepers must inspect the bees at least weekly during the swarming season, which can be between April and September and advise other tenants about this inspection procedure to ensure they are aware of greater number of bees flying during the inspections.

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 bee keeper wishes to place a hive other than at the centre of the plot, a written request must be made and the council's written consent obtained before the hive is so placed.

The bee keeper must satisfy the council that they have adequate arrangements in place to ensure that the bees are looked after in their absence and to ensure that any problems caused by their bees will be resolved.

A suitable sign or notice must be placed on the plot with the bee keeper's name and contact details in case of emergencies a minimum of two weeks prior to bees arriving on site.

Bee keepers must be able to demonstrate that they have alternative site arrangements in place in the event that they are asked by the council to remove the bee hives from their plot.

The council may ask for the hives to be removed if a tenant requests it for a valid reason, such as an allergy to stings. In the event of an objection by another tenant both parties should be encouraged to discuss any concerns in an attempt to properly understand any risks and allay such concerns.

If the council asks for the hives to be removed, the bee keeper must do so within four weeks of such a request. The council's decision on the removal of hives is final.

Hives must be positioned to avoid bees flying towards paths or roads. Screening, such as netting or fencing, must be provided around the hives to direct the bees' path flight path above head height.

The bee keeper has a duty of care to other tenants on the site working nearby and to all the members of 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 excessive 'following tendency', the bee keeper shall arrange to re queen the colony, or remove the colony altogether until its undesirable traits have been resolved.

In the event of the terms of this policy not being complied with, the council reserves the right to arrange the removal of bees and bee keeping equipment from the allotment site. The council will not be liable for any loss of or damage to, bees and bee keeping equipment and may seek reimbursement from the tenant of any costs incurred.

The council recommend that the bee keeper should take a look at the BBKA information leaflet on Allotment Bee Keeping which can be found on their website www.bbka.org.uk.

To: Clerk, Stow on the Wold Town Council

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the additional conditions of tenancy agreement laid down in this policy document for bee keeping on allotment plots.

Name _____

Signed _____

Plot no _____