



STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL

BEE KEEPING POLICY

1. Conditions

- 1.1 Any person keeping bees on Norton Road allotment land must be an allotment tenant and bound by the Allotment Tenancy Agreement, and the special rules for beekeeping.
- 1.2 The Council reserves the right to review these conditions as required.
- 1.3 The Council will give notice to the beekeeper before any changes to these conditions are made.
- 1.3 The Tenancy Agreement for Norton Road and the Norton Road Handbook containing rules and regulations can be found online at [Allotments - Stotfold Town Council](#).
- 1.4 Permission must be obtained from Stotfold Town Council to keep bees on an allotment, and this can only be done at Norton Road, permission is based on a specific location of a hive or hives being agreed and the special rules below being followed.

2. Beekeeper

- 2.1 The beekeeper must have current registration and membership of a beekeeper's association affiliated to the British Beekeeper's Association (BBKA).
- 2.2 The beekeeper must have a BBKS Basic assessment certificate or must be mentored by a beekeeper who holds this certificate and be working towards their own assessment. The certificate or letter of support must be presented to the Council before permission can be given.
- 2.3 If being mentored at time of application, the beekeeper must pass the assessment within 24 months of application.
- 2.4 The beekeeper must provide the Council with details (name, telephone number and mobile telephone number) of standby arrangements to deal with emergencies such as swarming during any absence or unavailability of the beekeeper.
- 2.5 The back-up beekeeper must have passed certification as above.
- 2.6 A notice giving contact details of the beekeeper and a backup 24H contact in case of absence should be clearly displayed on the hive for use by Council officers, emergency service, RSPCA, or others, this should state.
 - Name of plot holder (beekeeper)
 - Phone number
 - Back up keeper
 - Phone number
- 2.7 The beekeeper is required to hold a current insurance policy providing specifically for beekeeping risks and Public Liability insurance of £5,000,000, which should be provided to the Council.

3. Management of Bees and Hives

- 3.1 Hives must be a suitable distance from any public road or path, or a jointly used path/road within the allotment site.
- 3.2 A notice should be put in place to discourage members of the public from approaching the hives.
- 3.3 The plot must have simple screening, such as is used for windbreaks, of fine mesh netting, dust screening, willow, hazel or maintained hedges of a minimum of 2M height to encourage the bees to fly high over neighbouring plots and to protect the hive from wind.
- 3.4 No more than 1 permanent hive and 1 temporary hive may be located on one designated plot. Temporary increase to control swarming is permitted but the number should be reduced by the end of summer at the latest.
- 3.5 The beekeeper should ensure only gentle strains of bees are kept and if they become aggressive or exhibit excessive 'following' tendency, then they should arrange to re-queen the colony or remove the colony until undesirable traits have been resolved.
- 3.6 Management and manipulations must be timed to minimise disturbance to other plot holders, and the beekeeper should liaise with neighbouring tenants about planned actions.
- 3.7 The hives should be registered with Beebase and open to inspection by the Regional Bee Inspector.

4. Consultation

The Council will carry out consultation with other plot holders on site before giving permission.

5. Risk Assessment

- 5.1 This will include and is not limited to:
 - Bee swarm in public;
 - Bee sting first aid advice;
 - Accidental or intentional intrusion by animals or humans;
 - Arrangements in times of temporary absence by plot holder.
- 5.2 The beekeeper must sign this and alert the Council and Committee if anything further should be added (medical conditions, allergies etc).

6. Duty of Care

- 6.1 The beekeeper owes a duty of care to:
 - The public in the vicinity of the hives;
 - Other allotment tenants working nearby;
 - Intruders (even if their intention is clear to disturb the colony).
- 6.2 A sign must be displayed on the apiary area stating that honey bees are kept there.

7. Inspections

- 7.1 The Council will investigate any complaints, in particular, those with health and nuisance elements, and the site will be inspected annually as part of the annual plot inspection. If necessary, permission to keep bees can be withdrawn by the issue of 40 days' notice to remove the bees.

Revision History

Date Adopted	November 2024
Date Reviewed	