



ACKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Beekeeping Policy

1. Consent

1.1. Any person wishing to keep bees on Brackenhill Allotments must first seek the agreement of Ackworth Parish Council. No bees shall be kept on any Allotment until this agreement has been signed and permission given in writing. Ackworth Parish Council reserves the right to issue 14 days' notice for the removal of hives.

2. Duty of Care

2.1. The beekeeper owes a duty of care to: -

- The public in the vicinity of the hives
- Visitors to the Allotment
- Other allotment holders
- Other beekeepers - In regards of temperament of colonies with drones going to the congregation area (so that genes of bees of an aggressive nature are not passed onto other bee colonies).

3. Consultation

3.1. People will be more accepting of a perceived risk if they understand it and are clear about the benefits it can bring.

3.2. It is the responsibility of the beekeeper to inform, in advance, adjoining plots houses and public in the vicinity of the hives of the intention to site hives and to allay any concerns /answer any queries that they may have. The beekeeper should prominently display a notice for a minimum period of 28 days in the growing season and 56 days outside the growing season, indicating that a request to keep bees has been submitted.

3.3. Should an objection be made it must be effectively addressed - If the objection is on allergy or medical grounds and Ackworth Parish Council is satisfied that it is substantiated, at a discussion with the Allotment Subcommittee, permission may be refused to keep bees on that site.

4. Training

4.1. Beekeeping requires a level of competency in maintaining hives to ensure the health and productivity of the colony. Evidence of training from a recognised body such as the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) or Beekeeping Basic Training and Allotment Training Certificate from an approved association must be provided in advance of permission being granted.

5. Insurance / Membership

5.1. The named beekeeper must be a member of a Beekeepers Association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) which provides third party insurance as well as up-to-date valuable advice and training opportunities. The beekeeper will ensure that they don't break the limit of the number of bee hives required for insurance to be valid. Bee hives kept elsewhere must be taken into consideration for the maximum limit as failure to do so will invalidate the agreement.

5.2. Insurance cover must be maintained throughout the duration of keeping the bees on the Allotment which provides specifically for beekeeping risks and includes five (5) million pounds Public Liability Insurance cover. A copy of the insurance must be submitted annually to Ackworth Parish Council.

5.3. Ackworth Parish Council accepts no responsibility for the hives including but not limited to their damage, destruction or theft and the beekeeper shall be responsible for insuring the hives.

6. Hives / Location

6.1. No more than 2 hives and 4 nucleus or 2 brood boxes (the latter being allowed for swarm management during the beekeeping season) can be maintained which may be located in any specified location. Outside of the beekeeping season a maximum of 2 hives must be maintained.

6.2. Hives should be sited as far as possible from any public road or path or jointly used road or paths within the Allotment site.

6.3. After 2 years of siting hive/s, it may be possible to increase the number of hives however an application must be made in writing seeking permission. Expert advice will be sought to determine if it is sustainable for the area and whether there have been any beekeeping complaints/feedback during that timeframe.

Screening around the hives must be provided to ensure that bees are encouraged to rise in excess of 2 metres before leaving the plot.

7. Beekeeper responsibilities and handling of bees

7.1. Beekeepers must abide by the supporting information LO15 document 'Allotment Beekeeping' produced by the British Beekeeping Association.

7.2. Inspections - Hives need to be inspected weekly from May to September in accordance with BBKA guidelines or under guidance from the local beekeeping association.

7.3. Swarming - Beekeepers MUST use recognised methods of swarm prevention and keep swarming to a minimum. Whilst it is recognised that sometimes swarms cannot be prevented, the responsibility of swarm prevention nevertheless still lies with the beekeeper who must do everything possible to reduce the risk.

7.4. Visitors to the Allotment site must be made aware that bees may swarm and in the event of this happening an approved bee keeper must deal with this.

7.5. Temperament - It is strongly advised that beekeepers keep bees of a gentle nature on allotments to prevent the spread of 'aggressive' genes entering the local gene pool at the drone congregation area. In addition to that, these are open public areas so care and consideration needs to be given to others.

7.6. Ackworth Parish Council may invoke a review of the beekeepers' agreement if it is found that bees of an aggressive nature are being kept. Should this occur then a reasonable amount of time may be given to resolve any issues within the colony but will be dependent on the nature and seriousness of any related issues raised.

7.7. Contact Details / Standby - In the event of an emergency, such as swarming, the beekeeper must ensure that name and contact details for him/herself are displayed in the area of the hives or, if available, on a notice board where it is clearly visible to all users of the site. If the official named beekeeper is away a standby contact competent to deal with inspection duties and any emergency related to the hives must be available. Ackworth Parish Council will only approve fellow members of an approved Beekeeping Association such as Wakefield and Pontefract Beekeepers Association. A copy of the Allotment Training Certificate (as per section 4 of this policy) will not be required for the standby beekeeper.

7.8. The contact details of the standby must be made available during the absence of the beekeeper, in the manner described above.

Full contact details for both parties must be given to Ackworth Parish Council prior to siting the hives. A competent beekeeper can be changed at any time provided Ackworth Parish Council is kept informed and is made aware in advance.

7.9. Vandalism – Please try and ensure that long objects are not available near the hives as these may be used to push over hives from a safe distance.

7.10. Diseases – Beekeepers have a legal responsibility to notify the National Bee Unit (NBU) of certain pests and diseases. The beekeeper must register hives with the National Bee Unit 'Beebase' (part of Defra)

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/>

Email: nbu@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 3030094

Once registered, beekeepers are entitled to free advisory visits from bee inspectors, up-to-date information about local outbreaks and free access to pest and disease information.

8. Withdrawal of Consent

Ackworth Parish Council reserves the right to issue 14 days' notice for the removal of the hives if:

- The beekeeper contravenes any of the above conditions
- Substantiated information is received that requires a review of the arrangements

THE BEEKEEPER MUST SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Name of Beekeeper		
Allotment Plot Number		
Telephone		
Email Address		
Evidence of Training please <i>(tick if enclosing documentary evidence)</i>		
Evidence of Beekeeping Association Membership (including Public Liability Insurance) <i>please tick if enclosing documentary evidence</i>		
Number of hives and a plan of map of the site indicating the proposed location of the hives. please write number of hives in the box but enclose a plan/map indicating proposed location of hives of the site		
Procedure that the beekeeper will follow in the event of a colony swarming. <i>please tick if enclosing written procedure</i>		
Arrangements for the hives and colonies on the termination of this agreement by either party <i>please tick if enclosing copy of the arrangements</i>		
Name of Standby Beekeeper		
Telephone		

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the conditions of this agreement –

Name:

Signed: Dated:

Ackworth Parish Council hereby accepts the above signatory, as a Beekeeper, upon adherence to the conditions set out above.

Clerk to the Council:

Signed: Dated:.....