



Chilton Town Council

Conditions and Procedure for Permission for Keeping Honey Bees on Chilton Town Council allotment sites.

Allotments have had a long tradition of bee keeping and the recent decline in honey bee numbers is of national and international concern. Chilton Town Council are keen to support bee keeping and believe that honey bees play a critical role in the biodiversity of allotment sites and the wider environment.

Any tenant wishing to keep honey bees must obtain the permission of the Council and are subject to the conditions detailed below. It should be noted that not every plot on every site will be in a suitable location for bee-keeping and able to provide adequate screening and distance from fellow plot holders.

CONDITIONS

Siting of Hives

- Hives will only be allowed on individual plots that are sited a suitable distance from any public road or path, or jointly used road or path within the allotment site and have been inspected and approved by an experienced beekeeper.
- In line with BBKA guidance, hives are NOT permitted if an allotment site is adjacent to a school or live stock holdings.
- In line with BBKA guidance, the hive(s) on individual plots should be so sited that only the beekeeper can approach it or them. Bees operate on instinct, individual and shared. Hives should only be approached by a trained beekeeper.
- The plot where the hives are to be situated must have simple screening, such as is used for windbreaks of fine mesh netting, dust screening, willow, hazel or maintained hedges of a minimum 2.0 metres height to encourage the bees to fly high over neighbouring plots.
- The number of hives on the site in total will be monitored and restricted to prevent over population of any one site.
- The Council should be informed if the beekeeper increases the number of hives either in advance or as soon as is practical. The total may not exceed the permitted maximum number of hives.
- If the number of hives increases due to splitting in order to control swarming, this should be a temporary arrangement if it exceeds the permitted maximum, with the number of hives reduced to the permitted maximum by at the latest by the end of summer.

The first stage prior to approval is essential to identify a suitable location which should ideally be with an open aspect and with the entrance facing South East and shelter from North Easterly wind.

Consultation

Tenants applying to keep honey bees should notify neighbouring tenants of their request to keep honey bees on their plot both verbally and by a prominently displayed notice on their plot displayed. Such notices should be displayed for a minimum period of 28 days between April and September and 56 days between November and March, indicating that a request to keep bees had been submitted to Chilton Town Council

Consent

The beekeeper owes a duty of care to:

- The public in the vicinity of the hives
- Other allotment gardeners working nearby
- Intruders (even though it is clear that their intention was to disturb the colony)

The beekeeper must display a sign on their designated apiary area, stating honey bees are located there.

Allotment committees should ensure that members of the public registering for or joining an allotment with hives are notified at the earliest opportunity.

Stand-By Arrangements

The beekeeper must provide Chilton Town Council with the following details (name, address, telephone number and mobile telephone number) of adequate stand-by arrangements to deal with emergencies such as swarming during any absence or unavailability of the beekeeper.

On no account should any person other than an experienced beekeeper try to take a swarm, whether the swarmed bees are placid or not.

Inspection

Hives will be inspected annually by a member of the Town Council as part of the annual plot inspections.

Complaints

The council will investigate any complaints and in particular those with health and nuisance elements and in consequence may subsequently withdraw the permission via issue of 30 days notice for the removal of hives.

Insurance

The beekeeper is required to hold a current insurance policy which provides specifically for beekeeping risks and includes Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of five million pounds (£5,000,000). Proof of adequate insurance cover at renewal will be required each year.

We require potential beekeepers to become members of either the British BeeKeepers Association (BBKA).

The beekeeper must annually provide the Town Council with copies of the renewed insurance certificate or if a member of the BBKA, proof of their current membership.

Training

You must have completed the Basic Bee Keeping Course and gained the Basic Certificate.

British Bee Keeping

You must become a member of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA).

Sale of Honey

The beekeeper will not display notices that honey is available for sale on the allotment site or plot. A modest amount of honey related products may take place at Allotment Associations fundraising/community engagement events/activities with the association's permission.

Withdrawal of Consent

Chilton Town Council may withdraw the permission at any time by giving 30 days notice to remove hives if:

- The permit holder contravenes any of the above conditions.
- The permit holder contravenes any conditions within the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.
- Substantiated information is received that requires a review of the arrangements.
- A new allotment tenant takes a nearby plot then provides medical evidence that they are allergic to honey bee stings. However, we would expect any new tenant to be made aware of the hives before they accept the tenancy of a plot and if necessary, an alternative plot offered on an alternative site that does not have bee keeping.
- Any costs resulting from withdrawal of consent shall be borne by the tenant.
- If an allotment tenant no longer keeps tenancy of an allotment plot, then he or she will no longer be permitted to keep bees.

Diseases

The beekeeper is required to register all hives with the National Bee Unit's 'Beebase' (part of Defra). Guidance is available from their website:

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

If a beekeeper suspects their honey bees have Notifiable Brood Diseases such as AFB/EFB they should report the issue immediately to Chilton Town Council's and the National Bee Unit (NBU) to arrange for an inspector to assess the honey bees by contacting the

National Bee Unit
Sand Hutton, York
YO41 1LZ, UK
nbu@apha.gsi.gov.uk
0300 3030094

If diseased bees are to be disposed, advice should be taken from the NBU on appropriate disposal methods or their local beekeeping association. NBU inspectors will supervise the destruction of bees and hives in the case of American Foulbrood (AFB) and if need be for European Foulbrood (EFB), and as needed in the case of imported pests.

PROCEDURE

Step 1

Potential beekeepers must consult the local beekeeping association and prepare a site plan for their plot or designated apiary.

Step 2

Bee keepers are to secure approval by the Town Council and consult with fellow plot-holders- see **Consultation** period above.

Step 3

Potential beekeepers are required to attend a basic beekeeping course.

Step 4

Complete the application form and return to council with the out of hours arrangements and letter of support from the association.

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/>

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

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/faq.cfm>



Chilton Allotments



Agreement and Conditions for Keeping Honey Bees on Chilton Town Council allotment sites

TENANTS APPLICATION/ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS OF TENANCY

All tenants are required to sign and return the following form agreeing to the Conditional Terms of Tenancy.

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the additional Conditions of Tenancy for the keeping of honey bees. I confirm that I have agreed the location of the apiary and displayed the notice for the agreed period. I agree to adhere to all the good practice guidelines from BBKA.

Allotment ID No:	
Name of tenant/beekeeper (please print):	
Address:	
Telephone No:	
Mobile No:	
Email address:	

Location of Hive(s) on the allotment	
Date signage was displayed on site	
Date when signage consultation period ends (eg either 28 or 56 days)	
Name of Insurer:	
Policy No:	
Policy Expiry Date:	

PTO

EVIDENCE REQUIRED	EVIDENCE
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	ATTACHED
Copy of beekeeping public liability insurance certificate	
BBKA Membership number and an entry in relevant yearbook or details of any local association of which you are a member.	
Evidence that tenant has attended a BBKA Basic Bee Keeping course (copy of certificate)	
Contact details of stand-by arrangements of an alternative beekeeper who can be contacted in emergency (see below)	
Site Location Plan	

Emergency contact details of another beekeeper for stand-by arrangements

Name (please print):	
Telephone No:	
Mobile No:	
Email address:	
Name of Insurer:	
Policy No:	
Policy Expiry Date:	

Acceptance of Terms Tenancy

All tenants are required to sign and return an application form agreeing to the Conditional Terms of Tenancy thus agreeing to provide all the above information, adhering to the terms and conditions and undertaking a probationary period of 12 months from the date below:

Name (Please print): _____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

This form must be signed by the principal tenant before submitting. Please return this form to the Town Council offices or email it to info@chiltondurham-tc.gov.uk. Confirmation will be sent to the Principal Tenant in writing.

For office use only:

Date received:		Approved?	YES / NO
Date letter sent to tenant			