

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

AGREEMENT AND CONDITIONS FOR BEEKEEPING ON ALLOTMENT SITES

1. Beekeeping Sites

Bee keeping on Wirral may be restricted to the certain sites which will be determined on application. Issues may arise where bees are to be kept close to residential property which will not be allowed.

2. Consent

2.1 Bees shall not be kept on any allotment until the tenant has received permission from the Council. Applications should be submitting in writing enclosing a copy of their British Bee Keeping Association (BBKA) course certificate and details of their public liability insurance

2.2. The Allotment Officer will then carry out an inspection of the site together with the tenant, site secretary and a representative of the BBKA with a view to permitting the application

2.3 The tenant must ensure that other allotment holders, particularly those nearby, are in agreement with keeping bees which will also help to reassure them that they will be safe.

3. Duty of Care

3.1. Allotment beekeeping needs the co-operation of tenants to avoid problems. Keeping bees requires the tenant to attend a BBKA (British Bee Keeping Association) accredited basic examination course or similar and must hold a course certificate to confirm this.

3.2 Hives must be placed to avoid the bees flying towards paths, roads and where possible have the entrance placed facing South East this helps the bees to become active earlier in the day. Tenants must provide screening around the hive ensuring that the entrance is open to aid and direct the bee's flight path.

3.3 Allotments with bees must have a suitable sign/notice with the beekeepers name and contact details (phone numbers) in case of emergencies

4. Insurance

4.1 The tenant beekeeper must provide evidence of public liability insurance in respect of their beekeeping activities to the Allotment Officer.

5. Bee Hives

5.1. Tenants can only keep two hives on their allotment, which may increase up to a maximum of 4 hives in the in the course of normal beekeeping season and must reduce to 2 hives for the winter.

6. Swarming

6.1. Most honey bee colonies try to swarm; this is a crucial reproductive activity for honey bees. The tenant as beekeeper must inspect the bees regularly during the swarming season, which can be between April and September. The beekeeper should advise other tenants of the allotments about this procedure to ensure they are aware of any danger.

6.2 If the bees do swarm, tenants should be advised not to be unduly alarmed as the bees normally settle down after one hour or so and can be recaptured once they have settled. Honey bees are not additionally aggressive when they swarm and should not be confused with “killer bees” known as Africanised honey bees.

7. Water

7.1 Bees need water in the flying season and it may need the co-operation of other allotment holders to temporarily cover over ponds to alter their flight path. Bees prefer old/dirty water and water carriers may be attracted to ponds or other water sources on the allotments

8. Unattended Hives

8.1 Beekeepers must not use allotments as storage space for equipment that does not contain bees. If you are away on holiday or unable to visit then you must ensure your bees are being looked after and inspected regularly in the swarming season. You must provide details of this person to the Allotment Officer.

9. Stings

9.1 In general, bees will only sting if provoked or to defend their nest. The following can increase the risk of stings and should be avoided wherever possible:

- Bees do not like the smell of beer, gin etc., especially on people
- Leather clothing such as watchstraps or motorcycle ‘leathers’ upsets bees because of the animal smell
- Bees regard dark hairy clothing as a threat; it looks like a bear to them
- Many soaps, shampoos and clothing treated with fabric conditioner smell very like flowers and attract bees

- Bees sometimes regard sudden movements as a sign of aggression. To deal with a trouble-some bee, move slowly towards a hedge or close to another tree. Eventually the bee will go away
- Bees can recognise flicker and can be attracted to a persons eyes when they blink.

10. First Aid for stings

10.1 If you are stung you should :-

Move away from the area where the bees are, as the sting produces a Pheromone (smell) that attracts other bees to sting.

- Remove the sting by scrapping it with your finger nail or a sharp object like a pen knife or hive tool
- If you feel dizzy after you have been stung you should seek medical advice.
- Fainting or collapse you should administer first aid and call an ambulance
- Remove rings if stung on the hand
- Children if stung should be observed for an hour after for adverse affects

11. Diseases

11.1 The tenant bee keeper must register all hives with National Bee Unit go to www.nationalbeeunit.com to register. If the tenant suspects the bees have a notifiable disease they must legally inform the National Bee Unit and their local seasonal bee inspector or Regional Inspector (contacts are - Seasonal Officer – Mr Doug Jones 0151 342 7062 or Regional Officer – Mr Ian Molyneux 01204 381186)

12. Sale of Honey

12.1. The tenant beekeeper must display notices that honey is available for sale on the Allotment Site.

13. Withdrawal of Consent

13.1 The Council may withdraw the permission to keep bees, giving 14 days notice to remove the hives if:

- The tenant beekeeper contravenes any of the above conditions.
- The tenant beekeeper 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 bee stings

14. Further Information

Tenants can obtain further information from the places listed below:-

- www.britishbee.org.uk
- www.gobeeking.com
- www.bee-keeping.co.uk
- www.beeginners.info
- www.dave-cushman.net/bee/newhome
- www.Bee-craft.com/beekeeping
- www.beginningbeekeeping.com
- www.nationalbeeunit.com
- Wirral Beekeepers Association
- Liverpool Beekeepers Association

Beekeepers will be required to join a beekeeping association to obtain suitable liability and disease insurance

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the additional Conditions of Tenancy laid down by the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the Keeping of Bees on Allotments.

Signed _____

Dated _____

The Council hereby accepts the above signatory, as a beekeeper, upon adherence to Conditions set out above and in the Allotment Tenancy Agreement

Allotment Site _____

Plot No _____

Signed _____

Designation _____