

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Organisation	<b>Stanton under Bardon Parish Council</b>
Title	<b>Beekeeping Policy</b>
Policy Version	<b>1</b>
Creator	<b>Joanne Lowe – Parish Clerk</b>
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Next Review date	<b>May 2025</b>

### Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to prospective beekeepers who wish to place bee hives on the Council's allotments sites. It sets out the process to follow and the actions that must be taken prior to formal approval being given by the Parish Council.

### Process for Bee Keeping Permission

Beekeepers wishing to install hives at allotment sites must first obtain permission from the Parish Council. They will also need to demonstrate that they are members of a recognised Bee Keeping Association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) that includes relevant training and public liability insurance cover, or that they have their own public liability insurance in place to insure against any incidents that involve keeping bees.

To obtain permission from the Parish Council, the application form in appendix 1 should be completed with copies of the evidence required and returned to the Parish Council for consideration.

### Consulting Process

The beekeeper owes a duty of care to the public in the vicinity of the hives, any visitors to the Allotment as well as other allotment holders.

It is the responsibility of the prospective beekeeper to inform, in advance, adjoining plots, houses (where appropriate) and any 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. A sample of the wording that will be used is included at the end of this policy. The beekeeper should prominently display a notice for a minimum period of 1 month in the growing season and 2 months outside of the growing season indicating that a request to keep bees has been submitted by the tenant.

If no response is received from other tenants, it will be considered that there are no objections to the proposal. However, if any major concerns have been raised, including objections on the grounds on allergies or medical grounds, it must be considered as to how these will be addressed or permission may be refused to keep bees on site.

### Training & Public Liability Insurance

Beekeeping requires a level of competency in maintaining hives to ensure the health and productivity of the colony. Therefore, beekeepers seeking permission for a beehive must be, and continue to remain a member

of a recognised Bee Keeping Association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) that in turn provides the relevant training and public liability insurance cover as needed to keep bees in public areas. Alternatively, individual tenants must have their own public liability insurance in place to insure against any incidents that involve keeping bees. It is important to highlight that membership of the BBKA in turn provides public liability insurance as well as up-to-date advice and training opportunities.

This insurance cover must be maintained throughout the duration of keeping the bees on the Allotment and must be presented every April when payment is demanded for the allotment rent.

Stanton under Bardon Parish Council accepts no responsibility for the hives including but not limited to their maintenance, damage, destruction or theft. The beekeeper shall be responsible for insuring the hives.

### **Hives / Location**

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.

Hives should always be sited as far as possible from any public road or path or paths within the allotment site.

Screening of 1.5 metres must also be placed around the hives to ensure that bees are encouraged to rise before leaving the plot.

### **Beekeeper responsibilities and handling of bees**

Beekeepers must abide by the supporting information LO15 document 'Allotment Beekeeping' produced by the BBKA.

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

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.

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.

Stanton under Bardon 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.

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). Details can be found at [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com).

That any honey produced is not sold for profit.

### **Withdrawal of Consent**

Stanton under Bardon 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

## Bee Hive Permission Request Form

Please complete, print and return to: Stanton under Bardon Parish Council, Village Hall, St John Cole Crescent, Stanton under Bardon, Leics, LE67 9AE or email: [clerk@stantonunderbardonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stantonunderbardonpc.org.uk)

### Section A

#### Your Contact Details

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone .....

E-mail .....

### Section B

#### Evidence Required

Evidence	Enclosed Y/N
Membership of a recognised Bee Keeping Association	
Basic Bee Keeping Certificate or other verifiable evidence	
Public Liability Insurance	

I hereby wish to apply for permission for the installation of a beehive at Main Street / St John Cole Crescent allotment site on plot number ..... and agree to abide by the Parish Council's Bee Keeping Policy. Failure to abide by this policy may result in the termination of permission and removal of the beehive by the Parish Council.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BEEKEEPER

## SUGGESTED CONSULTATION EMAIL AND POSTER WORDING

Dear Plot Holder

A request has been received to site bee hives at Main Street / St John Cole Crescent allotment site. Stanton under Bardon Parish Council has agreed in principle that this site could be suitable for such activities.

However, before any final approval is granted, it is a requirement that consultation with adjacent plot holders and is undertaken in order to seek your views on the proposal.

Should you have any concerns or require any additional information regarding the proposed location of these hives please respond by **[date - underlined and in bold]** to the Parish Clerk whose details can be found at the bottom of this letter. Should no response be received from consultees it will be assumed you agree and are happy for approval to be granted.

The benefits of Bee keeping:

- This is a very old and traditional hobby.
- Bees produce honey, wax, and collect pollen.
- They provide a valuable pollinating resource for gardeners and wild plants.
- They support local food production and this adds to increasing the quality and flavour.
- Educationally: bees are social insects and, because of the way in which they can be managed in modern hives, their lifestyles can be easily studied. This gives them value in the classroom and can encourage responsible attitudes to other creatures and the environment generally.
- In an urban environment, bees can be very productive as they are able to forage from a wide range of plants in gardens, parks etc., over a wide "flowering" period. There is an added advantage also, in that they keep to their own natural cycle, largely unaffected by humans - this independence, even in highly managed and controlled urban environment, can be quite inspirational.

**Please forward any comments to:**

Stanton under Bardon Parish Clerk  
Stanton under Bardon Parish Council  
2 St John Cole Crescent  
Stanton under Bardon  
Leicestershire  
LE67 9AE  
Email: [clerk@stantonunderbardonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stantonunderbardonpc.org.uk)  
Tel: 01530 243987