



Cultural  
Community  
Solutions

## **Beekeeping Agreement**

### **Conditions for keeping Bees on allotment sites in Hounslow**

#### **1. Consent**

Any plot holder wishing to keep bees on an allotment site in Hounslow must first seek written agreement from Cultural Community Solutions

No bees shall be kept on any allotment site until this agreement has been signed and permission given in writing. Cultural Community Solutions reserve the right to issue 14 days notice for the removal of hives

#### **2. Duty of Care**

The beekeeper owes a duty of care to :-

- The public in the vicinity of the hives
- Other visitors to the open space
- Intruders even if it is clear that their intention was to disturb the colony

#### **3. Consultation**

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

It is the responsibility of the beekeeper to inform in advance, adjoining allotment tenants in the vicinity of the proposed hives, of the intention to site hives and to allay any concerns and answer any queries 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.

Should an objection be made it must be effectively addressed, if the objection is on allergy or medical grounds and Cultural Community Solutions are satisfied that it is substantiated, permission may be refused to keep bees on that particular site.

#### **4. Training**

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 must be provided.

#### **5. Insurance/Membership**

The named beekeeper must be a member of a Beekeepers Association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association which provides third party insurance as well as up to date valuable advice and training

Insurance cover must be maintained throughout the duration of keeping the bees on the allotment site 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 the allotment administrator

Failure to provide insurance will result in the removal of the hives by an approved contractor and all associated costs borne by the beekeeper

Cultural Community Solutions 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**

No more than 2 hives and 1 nucleus may be located in any specified location

Hives should be sited as far as possible from any public road or path or jointly used road or paths within the public open space

Entrances should preferably have a southerly aspect and away from any prevailing winds and overhanging shrubbery that may cause damp conditions

Screening around the hives is encouraged to both provide protection for the bees from intrusion/vandals and create an effective barrier ensuring the flight path of the bees does not go directly across other plots and forces them to fly quickly upwards to their natural height when foraging

Bees need access to **water** and provision of areas of shallow water and damp margins provided where they are less likely to drown. Water can also be provide in the form of bird baths and pond margins

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

Beekeepers should not put colonies of bees known to be of an aggressive temperament onto allotment sites, if this does occur then the beekeeper will be asked to remedy the situation

**Inspections** – Hives need to be inspected weekly from April to July in accordance with BBKA guidelines

When undertaking inspections bee keepers must be mindful of adjoining gardeners and inform them that an inspection will be carried out at a specific time, preferably in a calm dry period of weather

**Swarming** – The beekeeper must carry out such management and manipulations of the colonies as are necessary to minimise the issue of swarms. Visitors to the open space must be made aware that bees may swarm, an essential part of reproduction, and in the event of this happening an experienced bee keeper must deal with this.

**Contact Details/Standby** – In the event of an emergency, such as swarming, the beekeeper must ensure that name and contact details 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 unavailable, a standby contact competent to deal with inspection duties and any emergency related to the hives, such as potential swarming must be available.

The contact details of the standby must be made available during the absence of the beekeeper

Full contact details for both parties must be given to the allotment administrator prior to siting the hives.

**Vandalism-** Please try and ensure that long objects are not available near the hives as these may be used to push over hives

**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://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm>

Email : [nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nbu@fera.gsi.gov.uk)

Cultural Community Solutions reserve the right to advise fera of all beekeepers on allotments and all contact details

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

Cultural Community Solutions reserve the right to issue 14 days notice for the removal of the hives if :

- The bee keeper contravenes any of the above condition
- Substantiated information is received that requires a review of the arrangements

The beekeeper must supply the following information :

<b>Name of Beekeeper</b>	
Site name	
Plot Number	
Phone/	Mobile
	Daytime
	Home
Email	
Evidence of training	
Evidence of Beekeeping Association membership ( including Public Liability Insurance) Number of hives and a plan or map of the site indicating the proposed location of the hives	
Procedure that the bee keeper will follow in the event of the colony swarming	
Arrangements for the hives and colonies on the termination of this agreement by either party	
<b>Name of Standby Beekeeper</b>	
Phone/	Mobile

Daytime	
Home	
Email	

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

Signed .....

Dated .....

Cultural Community Solutions accept the above signatory, as a beekeeper, upon adherence to the conditions set out above

Allotment Site :

Dated .....