



CRANLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Bee Keeping Policy **November 2019**

Objective

Bee keeping is a very old and traditional hobby. It is a source of food production reflecting local quality and flavour. It has been estimated that honey bees pollinate about 34% of the crops in the UK and having bees near to the allotment site at the Beryl Harvey Field will result in higher yields and better quality produce.

Purpose

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

Duty of Care

The bee keeper owes a duty of care to:

- the public in the vicinity of the hives
- conservation volunteers working in the Beryl Harvey Field
- Council staff working in the Beryl Harvey Field
- other visitors to the Beryl Harvey Field even if it is clear that their intention was to disturb the colony.

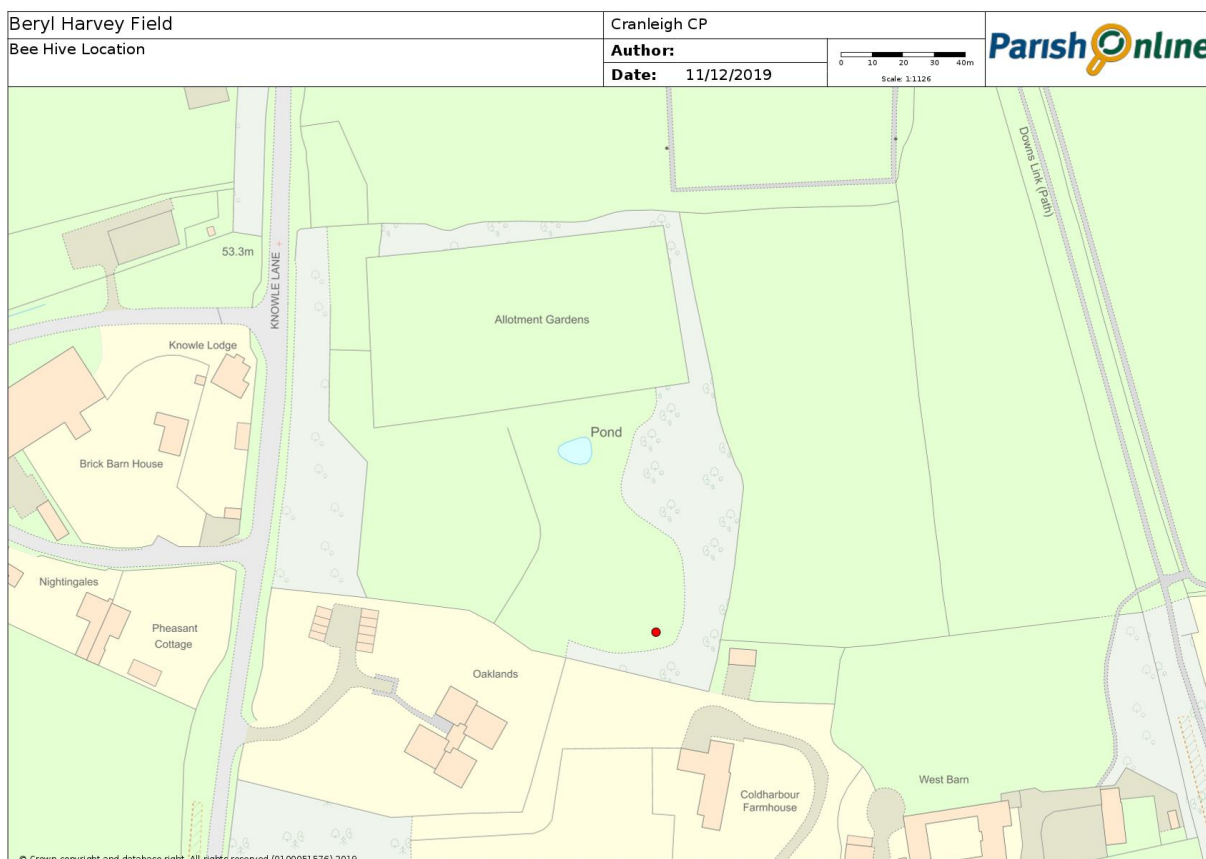
Process for Bee Keeping Permission

Bee keepers wishing to install hives at the Beryl Harvey Field must first obtain permission from the Parish Council. They will need to demonstrate their experience in bee keeping through evidence of membership of the Bee Keeping Association, training and insurance. 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. If approved, the Council will issue a 12 month licence agreement for bee keeping at the Beryl Harvey Field. The licence agreement will set out the terms and conditions for the apiary.

Siting of Bee Hives

- Bees have very precise flight paths in order to save energy and do not generally go off course.
- An area within the Beryl Harvey Field has been designated for the location of the hives to avoid bees becoming a nuisance to walkers or allotment plot holders, and sited away from the public highway.

- The designated area is shown below, the bee hive location is marked by the red dot.



- A fine mesh screen of a gauge of less than 10mm will be installed around the hives to ensure that bees are encouraged to rise in excess of 2 metres before leaving the hive to ensure that the flight path is not directly over the conservation field. The bees should be screened for two reasons, so not to draw attention to them and to create a barrier to ensure the bees fly upward quickly to their normal flight height.
- No more than 3 hives should be grouped together.

Handling of Bees

All honey bees try to swarm, although not every year. This is the only way they can reproduce. An inspection of each hive is required at least once a week to check for signs of swarming preparations during the 'swarming season', which is roughly April to July in the UK.

- The bee keeper should as far as they are able ensure that the strain of bees used is gentle, for example by using a queen from a docile strain.
- All swarm precautions must be taken. It must be noted that swarms do happen sometimes and may also come from other sources.
- Do not handle bees when other people are gardening in the immediate vicinity.
- Do not allow the strength of colonies to increase to swarming strength in an unmanaged way.
- Handling bees should be done at times when the bees are very active, thus leaving fewer in the hive.
- Always ensure there is someone else on site in case of emergency when handling bees.

- A source of water should be easily accessible to the bees and be in place before the bees are established. Otherwise bees may congregate around taps or any open water.
- When opening hives every care should be taken to ensure that it is not a busy time (i.e. busy weekend afternoons), and that the weather conditions are favourable (not raining, windy or thundery).
- Signage notification, a “Bee keeper at work” sign placed prominently while the bee keeper is working and for around half an hour after will ensure that no one walks too near unless they want to.
- Phone numbers in case of emergencies should be clearly displayed in a prominent position.
- Unused equipment should not be left around as it could spread disease.
- If bee keepers are happy to show any interested parties the hives then additional sets of protective clothing should be made available.

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.

Diseases

The bee keeper 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 bee keeper suspects their honey bees have Notifiable Brood Diseases such as AFB/EFB they should report the issue immediately to the National Bee Unit (NBU) to arrange for an inspector to assess the honey bees by contacting the National Bee Unit Sand Hutton, YorkYO41 1LZ, UK Email: nbu@apha.gsi.gov.uk Telephone 0300 3030094

If diseased bees are to be disposed, advice should be taken from the NBU on appropriate disposal methods or their local bee keeping 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.

Education

Consideration should be given to arranging an initial session/briefing for the allotment plot holders to learn and be educated about the bees, how the bee keepers are planning to operate and advice on what to do in case of emergencies etc. Once established, there could be further opportunities to extend the education process with the neighbouring schools, either by way of talks, site visits and honey tasting etc subject to the necessary precautions and completed risk assessment.

Training

The bee keeper must have completed the Basic Bee Keeping Course and gained the Basic Certificate. A copy of this must be provided with your application

Conditions

- Bee keepers seeking permission for a bee hive must be a member of a recognised Bee Keeping Association and provide a copy of their membership annually to the Parish Council.
- Bee keepers must have completed the Basic Bee Keeping course and provide a copy of their certificate, or other verifiable evidence of experience in bee keeping.
- Work to the good practice guidelines of the British Bee Keeping Association.
- Bee keepers must provide a copy of their public liability insurance.
- The bee keeper will be responsible for hive security.
- Maintenance responsibility lies with the bee keeper.
- Hives will remain on site as long as they are adequately maintained.
- The Council accepts no liability for loss, damage or theft from bee hives.
- Emergency contact details must be provided and displayed at the hive in case of swarm.
- Permission in writing must be sought from the Parish Council prior to installation of the bee hive using the form in Appendix 1.

Reference Documents:

- British Bee Keeping Association LO15 Allotment Bee Keeping
- The National Allotment Society and Leisure Gardeners Honey Bees and Wild Pollinators

November 2019

Policy Review Date: April 2022

**Appendix 1
Bee Hive Permission Request Form**

Please complete, print and return to: Cranleigh Parish Council, Council Office, Village Way, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8AF

**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	
Emergency contact details for alternative Bee Keeper	

I hereby wish to apply for permission for the installation of a bee hive at the Beryl Harvey Field 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 bee hive by the Parish Council.

Signed: _____
BEE KEEPER

Date: _____

Cranleigh Parish Council cares to ensure the security of personal data. This is done through appropriate technical measures and relevant policies. Data is kept for the purpose it was collected for and only for as long as is necessary. (See our Privacy Notice & Retention Policy online at: www.cranleigh-pc.gov.uk for further information)

Emergency Contact Details for Alternative Bee Keeper

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

E-mail

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

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