



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

BEEKEEPING POLICY

Purpose

Liss Parish Council recognises the importance of bees for pollination and permits and encourages beekeeping on the allotment sites subject to the provisions in this policy. Any tenant wishing to keep bees on their allotment plot should follow the procedures in this policy.

Stage 1 – initial consideration

Written permission to keep bees on LPC land must be sought from the Parish Council prior to installation of the beehive(s). The application form at Annex A should be completed and returned to LPC with copies of the evidence and a site plan detailing the planned location for the hive(s) in line with the siting of beehives conditions detailed in this policy.

The suitability of the site must be determined and agreed by the Parish Council before the process can continue.

Any person wishing to keep bees will need to demonstrate their experience in bee keeping through evidence of membership of the British Bee Keeping Association, and associated training and insurance. Copies of these records must be provided to be kept on file in addition to the application to keep bees.

Stage 2 – Consultation and management requirements

Once the site suitability has been determined in principle, it will be necessary to satisfy the requirements detailed in stage 2 so that the proposals can be formally approved by LPC.

Consultation process

It is the responsibility of LPC to inform, in advance (via written correspondence or a display notice – see Annex B), all stakeholders of the proposed site (including plot owners, houses (where appropriate) and any public in the vicinity of the proposed hives of the intention to keep bees and to allay any concerns/answer any queries that they may have.

If no response is received, 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. Records should be kept of any replies received/concerns raised.

Risk assessment

The beekeeper has a duty of care to the public in the vicinity of the hives. A risk assessment covering the following points must be provided along with the initial request to keep bees:

- Make sure all eventualities are covered.
- Any risks are identified
- There are actions identified to control any risks identified.
- Measures are in place to prevent bees swarming.

Conditions

LPC is responsible for ensuring the following conditions are met on which bees are permitted:

- Beekeepers must be a member of the British Bee Keeping Association (BBKA) and provide a copy of their membership annually to the Parish Council. Beekeepers must work to the good practice guidelines of the BBKA and must have completed the basic assessment BBKA course and provide a copy of their training certificate.
- Beekeepers must provide a copy of their public liability insurance on an annual basis - it is recommended that the level of cover is £10 million public liability.
- Beekeepers adhere to the operational requirements regarding siting of hives.
- The beekeeper will be responsible for hive security and maintenance - it should be considered that all allotment sites have restricted public access and unforeseen incidents can happen.
- Hives will remain on site as long as they are adequately maintained.
- The Council accepts no liability for loss, damage or theft from beehives.
- The beekeeper must provide the Parish Council with contact details of adequate stand-by arrangements to deal with emergencies such as swarming during any absence or unavailability of the beekeeper. All emergency contact details should be clearly displayed on site in case of swarm.
- Hives must be registered and be inspected annually by a BBKA registered beekeeper.
- The beekeeper will not display notices that honey or other bee produce are available for sale.

Stage 3 - Formal agreement

Once the requirements of Stage 1 and 2 have been met, the beekeeper will receive written confirmation that has been granted permission to place bee hives on site. Prior to bringing any bee hives onto the site, all required documentation such as emergency contact details, insurance details, confirmation of membership to the BBK Association and evidence of required qualifications must be given to LPC for their records.

Notification

Once permission has been agreed, LPC shall undertake to:

- Inform stakeholders at the earliest opportunity that there are bee hives on site. Any prospective new tenants that do not wish to have an allotment plot neighbouring a site where bees are kept should be offered an alternative plot if available.
- Install signage at the site entrance(s) and on the site notice board (if one exists) advising that bees are kept on site. The beekeeper must display a sign on the plot boundary stating

honey bees are located there. Signage must provide advice for when/if bees swarm along with contact details for the beekeeper and adequate stand-by arrangements during any absence/unavailability. All signage costs must be met by the beekeeper.

- Provide a briefing note to Parish Council staff should it not be possible to contact the beekeeper in the case of emergency.

Stage 4 – Operational requirements

Siting of bee hives

- Bees hives must be carefully placed to be away from footpaths and direct thoroughfares.
- No more than 3 hives should be grouped together.
- Do not place hives in positions from which flight paths impinge on other site users or pathways.
- Arrange for hives to be sited in a remote area away from other site users. This means that bee keeping is only permitted at Mitchells, Riverside walk and Fernhills allotment sites.
- Limit the number of colonies in any area.
- The bees should be screened so as not to draw attention to them and to create a barrier to ensure the bees fly upward quickly to their normal flight height (in excess of 2 meters/6 feet to ensure that their flight path is not directly over other plots. This can be achieved by the use of a fine mesh screen of a gauge of less than 10mm.

Handling of bees

- The beekeeper should try to ensure that the strain of bees used is gentle, e.g., by using a queen from a docile strain.
- Handling bees should be done at times when the bees are very active and when there is someone else on site in case of emergency (but not when other people are in the immediate vicinity). 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 (i.e. not raining, windy or thundery).
- A "Beekeeper at work" sign must be placed prominently on site while the beekeeper is working and for around half an hour after to ensure that no one walks too near unless they want to.
- The strength of colonies should not be allowed to increase to swarming strength in an unmanaged way. All swarm precautions must be taken - an inspection of each hive is required at least once a week to check for signs of swarming preparations during the 'swarming season' (around April to July in the UK).
- A 'bee safe' small water source should be easily accessible to the bees and kept filled as appropriate before the bees are established to prevent them congregating around taps or open water.
- If beekeepers are happy to show any interested parties the hives then additional sets of protective clothing should be made available.
- Unused equipment should not be left around as it could spread disease.

Beekeepers must make adequate arrangements to ensure that any problems caused by their bees in their absence will be resolved, e.g. have a nominated person as a point of contact in their

absence. Up to date contact details of a primary and secondary qualified and insured beekeeper should be made available on a site notice board in case of emergencies.

Vandalism

The beekeeper should try to 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 beekeeper is required to register all hives with the National Bee Unit's 'Beebase' (part of Defra). If a beekeeper 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.

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

Education

Consideration should be given to arranging an initial session/briefing for allotment plot holders to learn and be educated about the bees, how the beekeepers are planning to operate and advice on what to do in case of emergencies etc.

Complaints Process

Complaints from plot holders or members of the public should be directed to the Clerk for consideration. It may be necessary for a re-evaluation of the appropriateness of the siting of bee hives on the particular site to be undertaken. Any withdrawal of permission to keep bees on an allotment plot would be done via issue of a notice for the removal of hives during the next winter season.

Withdrawal of Consent

LPC may withdraw the permission to keep bees at any time by issuing a notice for the removal of hives if:

- The beekeeper contravenes any of the conditions within this policy/within the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.
- Substantiated information is received that requires a review of the arrangements.

If a deadline for removing the bee hives is not adhered to Liss Parish Council reserves the right to arrange for removal itself any costs arising shall be borne by the beekeeper.

This document should be read in conjunction with the document LO15 Dec 2011 produced by the British Beekeepers Association.

Adopted by Liss Parish Council on 28th April 2025.

To be reviewed in 2028.



Liss Parish Council Beehive Request Form/Acceptance of terms of tenancy

*Please complete and return with required information to: Liss Parish Council, Hill Brow Road,
Liss GU33 7LA or email: clerk@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk*

I hereby wish to apply for permission for the installation of beehive(s) at

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and agree to abide by the Liss Parish Council's Beekeeping Policy. I agree to provide all of the necessary information *for both contacts* listed below and adhere to the terms and conditions throughout the life of the agreement. I understand that failure to abide by this policy may result in the termination of permission and removal of the beehive. I agree to remove the beehives should that be necessary in accordance with the terms specified in this agreement.

Signed:.....

BEEKEEPER

Date:.....

Section A - Contact Details

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Section B - Emergency Contact Details for Alternative Bee Keeper

Name

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Address.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Section C - Information Required

Evidence Membership of a British Bee Keeping Association membership

British Bee Keeping Association Basic Assessment Bee Keeping Course certificate

Public Liability Insurance

Site Location Plan showing location of hive(s)

Completed Risk Assessment



LISS PARISH COUNCIL BEEKEEPING CONSULTATION

A request has been received to site beehive(s) at

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Whilst Liss Parish Council has agreed in principle that this site could be suitable for such activities, before any final approval is granted, consultation with all stakeholders is undertaken 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]**. If no response is received, it will be assumed that you are in agreement and happy for approval to be granted.

The benefits of bee keeping:

- *It 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.*
- *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 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.*

Please forward any comments to:

The Clerk, Liss Parish Council, Hill Brow Road, Liss GU33 7LA or email:

clerk@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk