



**PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES**

Scaitcliffe House
Ormerod Street
Accrington BB5 0PF

E-Mail: allotments@hyndburnbc.gov.uk

«Name»
«Street»
«Town»
«Postcode»

Your ref:
Our ref: Bee Agreement
Ask for:
Direct Line:
Date:

Dear «Name»

BEE KEEPING ON ALLOTMENTS

I have noted that you are currently keeping Bees on your allotment plot. The Council is now actively supporting the keeping of Bees, however to ensure that the Bees are kept in a fit and proper manner the Council expects that certain conditions are adhered to. Please sign both copies of the enclosed agreement and return one copy to the above address. The agreement should be returned within 28 days of this letter.

As you are already an experienced bee keeper the main points are as follows:-

- You must hold public liability insurance. Automatic if you are a registered member of the East Lancashire Bee Keepers Association or similar.
- Your hives must be registered with the national BeeBase service. Again automatic if you are a registered member of the East Lancashire Bee Keepers Association, or similar.
- You must place permanent warning signs on your allotment plot warning third parties to the presence of Bees. The warning sign should contain emergency contact details (name & telephone number), for instance if your hive swarms.
- When you are working your Bees you must place a sign warning third parties not to enter the allotment plot and keep away.

If you have any queries please contact me on the above telephone number or by email.

Yours sincerely

Hyndburn Borough Council



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**BEE KEEPING AGREEMENT AND CONDITIONS
FOR KEEPING BEES ON AN ALLOTMENT SITE**

(1) CONSENT

Bees shall not be kept on any allotment until the allotment tenant has submitted a request in writing to keep bees on his or her plot to the Chief Planning and Transportation Officer, and that request has been consented to by the Department in writing. The Council reserves the right to issue 14 days notice for the removal of hives. Beekeepers making such application are expected to be experienced, or to have close guidance from an experienced beekeeper.

(2) DUTY OF CARE

The Beekeeper owes a Duty of Care to:-

- the public in the vicinity of the hives
- other allotment tenants working nearby
- intruders even though it is clear that their intention was to disturb the colony

(3) SITING AND NUMBER OF HIVES

Hives should be sited as far as possible from any public road or path or jointly used road or paths within the allotment site, and must be agreed in advance on site with the Council. The site must have high fences, fine mesh or maintained hedges of up to 2m to encourage the bees to fly high over neighbouring plots. Prior consent from the Council must be obtained for any change in the number of hives kept on site.

(4) CONSULTATION

The beekeeper should inform, both verbally and by a prominently displayed notice on the plot, notifying neighbouring allotment gardeners of the request to keep bees on the allotment, and prominently display such a notice for a minimum period of 1 month in the growing season and 56 days outside of the growing season, indicating that a request to keep Bees had been submitted to the Chief Planning and Transportation Officer. Where an objection on allergy or medical grounds is made to the Council and substantiated, the Council may refuse permission to place bees on the site.

(5) WARNINGS AND EMERGENCY

The beekeeper must display warning signs advising a third party of the presence of Bees. The warning sign must prominently displayed on or near the beekeepers allotment gate.

The beekeeper must display warning signage when an active hive is opened for maintenance and upkeep. The warning sign must prominently displayed on or near the beekeepers allotment gate.

The beekeeper must display with details (name, telephone number) of adequate arrangements to deal with emergencies such as swarming. These details must prominently displayed by notice on or near the beekeepers allotment gate.

(6) COMPLAINTS

The Council will investigate any complaints and in particular those with health and nuisance elements and in consequence may subsequently withdraw the permission via issue of 14 days notice for the removal of all hives.

(7) INSURANCE

The beekeeper must hold a current insurance policy, which provides specifically for Beekeeping risks and includes for five (5) million pounds Public Liability Insurance cover.

The Council would prefer beekeepers to be members of the British Beekeepers Association, (BBKA), which may include such insurance cover; or at least be a member of a local beekeeping group.

(8) DISEASES

The beekeeper is required to register all hives with the National Bee Unit 'Beebase', (part of Defra). If the beekeeper suspects the Bees are diseased they must inform the: National Bee Unit, who will arrange for an inspector to assess the Bees.

(9) SALE OF HONEY

The beekeeper will not display notices that honey is available for sale on the Allotment Site. Sale of Honey or related products may take place at the Association Hut with the approval of the Allotment Association Management Committee.

(10) WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT

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

- the permit holder contravenes any of the above conditions.
- the permit holder contravenes any conditions within the Allotment Tenancy Agreement or any separate Allotment Association rules.
- 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.

Any costs resulting from withdrawal of consent shall be borne by the allotment holder.

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the additional Conditions of Tenancy laid down by Hyndburn Borough Council for the keeping of honey bees.

Signed: _____

Initial maximum number of beehives allowed =

[Enter number of hives currently kept]

Dated: _____

The Council hereby accepts the above signatory, as a beekeeper, upon adherence to the Conditions set out above.

Plot No.: «Plot» Allotment site: «Site»

Signed:

Position:

Dated: