

Conditions and guidelines for keeping bees on NEL Council allotment sites

July 2025

Bees make a wonderful addition to any allotment site as they play a critical role in the pollination of so many plants, especially fruit crops. Higher yields and better quality produce will result from having hives near your site. There are regulations that you must adhere to:

Bee Keeping Regulations

1. No person may place any beehives on an allotment plot prior to written authorisation from the Council.
2. The allotment office will contact neighbouring plots to ensure there are no objections, prior to permission being granted.
3. The beekeeper must be a member of the British Beekeeping Association (BBKA). Evidence must be provided.
4. Insurance against public liability should be held upto £5 million. Evidence must be provided. (This may be included in your BBKA membership?)
5. Contact details for the beekeeper must be displayed on the allotment plot to enable their ability to visit the site at short notice should a problem arise.
6. Beehives are best sited away from other plot holders, paths and public roads.
7. The bees should be encouraged to fly over high hedges, fences or 2m screens around the hives, especially if their flight path crosses a footpath.
8. Beehive openings should face towards the front of the plot and not towards neighbouring plots.
9. The Council reserve the right to insist that bee hives are removed at any time. Compensation will not be payable by the Council.
10. Should the hive be improperly cared for this will be reported to RSPCA and British Beekeeping Association for inspection. If removal is advised this will be required immediately. Compensation will not be payable by the Council.
- 11. A maximum of 2 beehives is permitted per plot.**
12. If the neighbouring plot already has beehives, permission will not be granted.