



Conditions and guidelines for keeping bees on NEL Council allotment sites



Updated: October 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.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 was established to ensure the humane treatment of animals. Anyone who is cruel to an animal, neglect it or does not look after its welfare needs, may be banned from owning animals, fined up to £20,000 and or sent to prison. If the Council have good reason to believe that a tenant has failed to meet the needs of animals kept on their allotment, they will take steps to end the tenancy and may report the Tenant to the RSPCA.

- The Tenant must be certain they have the time to care for the animals, visiting them at least once a day, every day.
- The Tenant must be confident they can afford to keep the animals.