



Appendix 3(v)



NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL **POLICY ON BEE-KEEPING AT ALLOTMENT GARDENS**

Background

New Romney Town Council owns and manages allotment gardens in Church Lane, New Romney.

Bee-keeping can make a positive contribution to the local countryside and the presence of bees can only support the efforts of local allotment gardeners in successful fruit and vegetable production. However, not every allotment gardener would wish there to be bee hives present at the allotment gardens for a variety of reasons. Therefore, whilst the Town Council has approved, in principle, the keeping of bees at the Church Lane Allotment Gardens, it is necessary to ensure that this practice is closely controlled and to, therefore, have in place a Bee-Keeping Policy which sets out clearly and concisely the terms and conditions - which must be strictly adhered to - by which bees may be kept at the afore-mentioned site.

The following terms and conditions of bee-keeping at Church Lane Allotment Gardens, which are to be applied to each and every such application, are designed to be as fair and clear as possible.

Policy on Bee-Keeping at Allotment Gardens, Church Lane

Not without the prior consent in writing of the Town Council will bees be kept within the Church Lane Allotment Gardens Site AND in regard to the keeping of bees for which consent has been granted, bees shall be kept strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions as provided within the New Romney Town Council Policy on Bee-Keeping.

NO bees shall be kept on any individual allotment garden plot but ONLY in a fenced-off area that shall be designated by New Romney Town Council.

Terms and Conditions for Bee-Keeping at Church Lane Allotment Gardens, whereby the consent of the Town Council has been granted, are as follows:

- Only two hives are permitted to be present at any time.

- Hives are to be housed within a fenced-off area which shall be designated by the Town Council and which is a suitable distance away from allotment plots. The fence, which shall be erected by the approved bee-keeper at his / her own expense, must be at least 1.8m (6 ft) in height to allow bees to fly off safely.
- There must be one fully-qualified bee-keeper (who must, as a minimum, be a member of a local Bee-Keeping Association and affiliated to the British Bee-Keeping Association) to be responsible for the hive(s). He / she must be assisted by a British Bee-Keeping Association Qualified Member when manipulations of the hive(s) are taking place. (The latter Officer need not necessarily be an Allotment Garden Tenant.)
- Manipulation of the hive(s) will only be permitted when other Allotment Garden Tenants are NOT present. Due notice must be given and details must appear on the Allotment Association Notice Board at the Allotment Gardens.
- An annual risk assessment must be carried out by the approved Bee-Keeper and reviewed on a regular basis, evidence of which must be provided to the Town Council for its records.
- Evidence of Public Liability Insurance in an amount of at least **£5million** cover must be presented to the Town Council before any hive is installed at the Allotment Gardens site and, thereafter, on an annual basis.
- The approved Bee-Keeper must provide the Town Council with full emergency contact details and this information must also be displayed on the Allotment Association Notice Board.
- A lockable first-aid box must be provided by the approved Bee-Keeper at his / her own expense and fixed in a convenient position within the Allotment Gardens site. A record of all accidents and / or injuries that occur and any treatment given should be kept with the first-aid box. The approved Bee-Keeper should, at his / her own expense, provide a suitable record book for this purpose. The Town Council must be notified in writing immediately – or as soon as practicable afterwards - of any accident or injury occurring which has required hospital treatment.