

**CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**AG4 Bees on Leisure Gardens**

**1. Introduction**

The Parish Council have recently received requests for keeping bees on allotments plots held at the Leisure Gardens they manage, as well as request for this to be considered by Cllr Steve Thompson.

The Parish Council manage 9 Leisure Garden sites across the Parish 5 of which are currently fully tenanted.

**2. Report Details**

**2.1.** At the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held in March 2019 it was agreed that the Parish Council consider allowing tenants to keep bees at a specified site the Parish Manage; Pickards Field Leisure Garden, and a further report be presented with further details and recommendations for keeping bees on allotments.

**2.2.** The National Allotment Society (NAS) advises that bee-keeping on an allotment must be carried out by someone with experience & knowledge of the subject. They also advise authorities allowing beekeeping on their sites supply aspiring beekeepers with a beekeeping policy.

An example of a beekeeping policy has been requested from NAS.

Attached is a list of suggested points to be included in a Parish Council policy on bee-keeping.

**2.3.** NAS suggest that vacant or hard to let plots be used an apiary where several beekeepers can keep their hives and that these are best sited away from other plot holders, paths and public roads.

At a previous meeting Pickards Field was suggested as the most appropriate site to create an apiary as there are several vacant plots available. In the attached map plots where an apiary may be best situated have been highlighted.

**2.4.** Bristol City Council suggest Bees must be within a “netted” area to minimise nuisance to other plot holders and neighbouring plot holders must be given notice of your intentions and be given the opportunity to object (the Council do this). In addition, there is a general expectation that, to demonstrate continuing competence, proper records must be maintained, and colonies are registered on Beebase.

**2.5.** Bees 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 on a site.

**2.6.** If it is agreed for an apiary to be created all plot holders of the selected site will be contacted to inform them of the intention and all concern

**3. Recommendation**

**3.1.** That the Committee gives approval for officers to contact a local bee-keeping association for advice on the best location for an apiary at Pickards Field Leisure Garden and for an apiary to be created in the most appropriate place.

- 3.2.** That a maximum of £500+VAT be agreed to be spent on creating an apiary area (approx. £250 for fencing, £70 for a gate, £50 for netting and £100 for signage).
- 3.3.** Officers contact all plot holders of the selected site to inform them of the intention to create an apiary and all comments concerns be taken into consideration and alternative plots offered to any tenants who may wish to take them up.
- 3.4.** A bee-keeping policy be created and adopted including all the suggested points and it be based on the example to be received from NAS.