



BEE KEEPING AT BABBAGES ALLOTMENT SITE POLICY AND APPLICATION FORM

Date of Review	Change Description	Minute No.
21 st July 2026	Review	2607/07

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Bees shall not be kept on any allotment plot unless the applicant has submitted a written request by filling out the attached Application Form and has received written consent under Licence from Fremington Parish Council. Allotment Holders do not have a statutory right to keep bees on allotments.
- 1.2. All Applications to site Bee hives will be submitted to the Parks and Playing Field Committee for consideration.
- 1.3. A maximum of two Bee hives may be permitted on the entirety of the Babbages allotment site.
- 1.4. The Bee hives should be for personal use only.
- 1.5. Only allotment holders may keep Bee hives on the site, once approved.
- 1.6. Fremington Parish Council has obtained from North Devon Council as the Freehold landowner permission for the siting of a maximum of two bee hives at the Babbages Allotment Site but North Devon Council has reserved the right to withdraw their permission at any time. In light of this Fremington Parish Council reserves the right to withdraw their permission to the Applicant for the siting of Bee Hives at any time and for any reason.
- 1.7. This Policy should be abided by in conjunction with leaflet LO15 from the BBKA [Leaflet LO15 BBKA Click here](#)

2. Conditions

- 2.1. The tenant/beekeeper must be a member of the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA), or a member of a group affiliated with BBKA. The tenant/beekeeper must maintain their membership of the BBKA whilst keeping bees on the allotment in order to ensure that the Associations insurance cover is maintained by the tenant/beekeeper. Evidence of membership (including valid insurance cover) must be produced by the tenant/beekeeper prior to permission being granted and annually thereafter.
- 2.2. The tenant/Beekeepers must ensure that they provide competent care and management of the Bees and Hives and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the wellbeing of the bees. Management and manipulations of the Bees and Hives must, as far as possible, be carried out at appropriate times in order to minimise disturbance to other plot holders. The BBKA operates a well-established national system of assessments and examinations for beekeeping skills at a number of levels and it is expected that a beekeeper should, as a minimum, have passed the BBKA's Basic Assessment in Beekeeping. Evidence of passing the basic assessment must be provided to the Council prior to written permission being granted.
- 2.3. The tenant/Beekeeper must have completed a risk assessment and submitted it to Fremington Parish Council prior to the siting of the Hive/s.
- 2.4. The tenant/Beekeeper has a duty of care to other allotment gardeners working nearby, and to all members of the public, including those who have no lawful reason to be on the allotment. To this end, s/he must ensure that only gentle strains of bees are kept. If the bees become aggressive or exhibit excessive 'following' tendency, the tenant/beekeeper shall arrange to re-queen the colony or remove the colony altogether until its undesirable traits have been resolved, and this action must be undertaken at the tenant/beekeeper's expense.
- 2.5. The hives must be registered and available for inspection by the Regional Bee Inspector.
- 2.6. Signs (as many as are reasonably needed) "Beekeeper at work" should be placed prominently at the Babbages Allotment Site while the t

- tenant/beekeeper is working, and for around half an hour after, to ensure that no one accidentally walks too near.
- 2.7. Tenants must accept full responsibility for the hive. Should a swarm occur, the tenant is responsible for ensuring that the bees are removed by a suitably qualified beekeeper at the tenant's expense.
- 2.8. All hive equipment is to carry a suitable mark identifying its owner.

3. Management of Bees and Hives

- 3.1. Bees are to be encouraged to fly at a good height (i.e. above head height) by surrounding the hives with a 2-metre high fence or similar boundary; (bird netting, trellis covered with plants, or tall plants can be adequate).
- 3.2. The position and construction of this fence/barrier is to be agreed in writing with Fremington Parish Council prior to its installation.
- 3.3. The tenant/beekeeper must ensure that there is a water supply for the bees close to the hives, so the bees do not fly to taps or any open water.
- 3.4. Handling bees should be done at times when the bees are very active, thus leaving fewer in the hive. When opening hives every care should be taken to ensure that it is not a busy time (i.e. busy weekend afternoons), and that the weather conditions are favourable (i.e. not raining, windy or thundery.)
- 3.5. Always ensure there is someone else on site in case of emergency when handling bees.
- 3.6. Protective beekeeping clothing must be worn.
- 3.7. Tenants/Beekeepers should not use the designated allotment area as storage space for keeping equipment that does not contain bees. No wax comb should be left exposed in an apiary, it must be stored in a bee proof way. Allotment tenants have a duty as part of the Allotment Tenancy Conditions not to cause a nuisance to others. In the keeping of bees on an allotment site, tenants should take all reasonable measures to minimise potential nuisances.
- 3.8. The tenant/beekeeper shall inspect the hives weekly from April to July in accordance with BBKA guidelines and advise other tenants about this inspection procedure to ensure they are aware of greater number of bees flying during the inspections
- 3.9. Defra officials, the Regional Bee Inspectors, have statutory powers to access hives to deal with disease. The Council will co-operate fully with them in this regard.

4. Stand-by arrangements

- 4.1. The tenant/beekeeper must provide the Council with contact details (name, address, email and telephone numbers) of a person of sufficient competence to deal with emergencies such as swarming during any such period that the beekeeper is absent or unavailable.

5. Complaints and Withdrawal of Consent

- 5.1. Initially, any complaints from plot holders or members of the public should be directed to Fremington Parish Council for consideration and hopefully resolution. If the Clerk of the Assets and Facilities Committee is unable to deal with the complaint then it should be referred to the Assets and Facilities Committee.

5.2. Should the Parish Council receive several complaints it will be necessary for a re-evaluation of the appropriateness of the siting of bee hives on the particular site to be undertaken.

5.3. The Council may issue a notice requiring the removal of the hives within 14 days if:

- The beekeeper contravenes any of the conditions stated in this policy;
- A complaint that the bees have caused nuisance or danger to other plot holders or members of the public is upheld; or
- Substantive information is received that requires a review of the arrangements.
- If the Council has cause to investigate complaints of nuisance, costs of official inspections will be passed to the tenant for payment.



APPLICATION FORM FOR SITING OF BEES AT BABBAGES ALLOTMENT SITE

Please ensure you have read the Beekeeping Policy and leaflet LO15 from the BBKA prior to making this application. This application is for ONE bee hive.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name of Applicant (Bee Keeper)	
Plot Number on Babbages Allotment site	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone Number	
Mobile Number	
Email address	
Bee Keeping Association of which you are a member and hold valid Public Liability Insurance	
I confirm that I consent to my details being held by Fremington Parish Council for the purposes of Bee Keeping and that I have read and will abide by the Bee Keeping Policy adopted by Fremington Parish Council.	
Signed: _____ Dated: _____	

ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF THE BEE KEEPER BEING ABSENT

Name of relief Bee Keeper	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone Number	
Mobile Number	
Email address	
Bee Keeping Association of which you are a member and hold valid Public Liability Insurance	
I confirm that I consent to my details being held by Fremington Parish Council for the purposes of being the relief Bee-Keeper in the event of the applicant being unavailable or away.	
Signed: _____ Dated: _____	

Checklist:

- I have read the Bee Keeping Policy and LO15 Leaflet from the BBKA ☐
- I have completed and attached a Risk Assessment ☐
- I have attached a copy of the Public Liability Insurance for the Bee Keeping and Relief Bee Keeper. ☐

Internal Use Only:

Date Application Received: _____ RA ☐ PLBK ☐ PLRBK ☐
Date considered by Committee: _____ Outcome: _____