

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 9 th August 2022
Report Title	Beekeeping at Leisure Garden Sites
Agenda Reference	14
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Officers Recommendations

1) To note the interim report of research and findings of the practicalities and advice of beekeeping.

Background

In May 2022, students from Bristol University contacted the Parish Council to see if there would be a possibility of using some of the space at the Leisure Gardens for Beekeeping, to assist with various studies. The Beekeeping and maintenance of the hives would solely be the responsibility of Bristol University along with the Health & Safety aspects of running this from the Parish Council's Leisure Garden Site. The Parish Council will also have its own measures in place to monitor the activity.

Due to the late request and the schedule of meetings, there was insufficient time for this to be considered and implemented in time for this summer, however, it is likely that the Parish Council will be approached next year with the same request.

Research

Officers have had discussions with the National Allotment Society, British Beekeeping Association and other parish councils who have undertaken beekeeping on leisure gardens/allotment sites. It has been established that beekeeping is a very complex scenario as is governed by multiple acts - this is because bees are both insects and food producers.

Two of the parish councils carry out beekeeping but one just works in conjunction with Bristol University and does not have much involvement other than the Health & Safety measures.

The Swindon & Wiltshire District of British Beekeeping Association (BBKA) have been asked to send a representative to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee in either August or September.

Considerations

- The Allotment Act states that the plots should be used for growing fruit and vegetables, so if a plot is chosen it will need to be one that is vacant due to the unlikely growing conditions and not taking up a workable plot
- Consultation with the plot holders will need to be of utmost priority
- Siting of the hives and safety measures such as notices, high fencing around the plot to encourage the bees to fly over to reach the hive
- Siting of the hives would need to ensure no nearby other nectar sources such as wildflowers and trees
- Who will attend in an emergency?
- Public liability insurances for both the Council and Bristol University
- A beekeeping policy (see example in other attachments for this item)



- A process in case of any anaphylactic shocks from beestings whilst plot holders are working their plots

Benefits of Beekeeping

- The concept is good for the environment and improved biodiversity
- Saving bee populations
- Improves pollination
- Interesting study subject for the community
- Provides a sense of community