

BEES

Bees are kept on this allotment site on

PLOT NUMBER 76

A small fruit fence and poles to a height of 1.8m surround the Beehives on this plot

The plot owner tends the bees and hives as necessary

When the bees are active during the summer period and on warm days during the remainder of the year, bees will fly to and fro from the hives in any direction.

Please do not go to investigate the hives inside the small fence for any reason whatsoever.

If you notice that the hives have been disturbed by vandals, foxes or dogs, or perhaps blown over by high winds or if you wish to see inside the hives contact and advise the plot owner on the phone number on the notice board at the site office and he will arrange to reassemble the hives or give a guided tour at a mutually convenient time (1 person at a time) around the hive(s), with a veil provided.

During the summer months the hives will be regularly inspected (manipulated) under controlled conditions using appropriate calming smoke and care.

The apiarist will ensure that local plot holders are aware of such work being carried out and he will not proceed if any adjacent plot is being worked upon.

While the apiarist is performing these operations please do not approach the hives or go within 10m of the apiarist while he is wearing his veil over his face.

SWARMS

Occasionally during summer months swarms of bees may be seen around the allotments (or perhaps in your garden!!)

These swarms may or may not have come from the hives on the allotment site.

The swarm of bees may be on the wing flying up to about 6m above the ground. When flying as a swarm the bees do make a loud buzzing noise and on calm days will fly around until they find a local tree, bush, hedge or perhaps a man made frame to make a temporary home where they will all cluster together in about 30 minutes.

The swarm in a cluster will vary in size between a grapefruit and a football.

Alternatively in windy conditions the whole swarm may fly across or out of the allotment site and not stop.

PLEASE DO NOT PANIC

Bees in a swarming state are rarely aggressive, but it is best to avoid the swarm if at all possible, just move away from a flying swarm, do not act noisily or aggressively.

JUST MOVE AWAY

Once the swarm has clustered it will stay clustered up to 24 hours, then move on in a large flying swarm to find a permanent home anything up to a mile away.

Keep away from the clustered swarm a minimum distance of 5m. So if you see or find a clustered swarm call me, I will collect the swarm and hive it or I will advise others who will be able to collect, if necessary.

In time a swarm will disperse and go elsewhere and find a suitable dwelling place (Hollow tree, inside a shed, in a roof space, inside a spare hive),

Unless there is imminent danger to persons, animals or machinery or the swarm is in a house etc.

IT IS NOT AN EMERGENCY TO DISPERSE OR COLLECT A SWARM

Swarm assistance may be obtained from
The swarm liaison officer at your local bee keeping association