



Shipley
Town Council

ALLOTMENT LIVESTOCK AND BEE KEEPING POLICY

Proposed amendment April 2024

1. The keeping of hens, rabbits and bees are permitted on allotments subject to obtaining the prior written permission of the Council and as long as they are for the tenant's own use and not for business or profit.
2. Any tenant keeping animals should have an emergency plan in place for evacuation of animals in the event of flooding, fire, etc. including providing contact details to the Council and neighbouring tenants.
3. If any animal on an allotment is deemed a nuisance, health hazard or their well-being is affected then they can be removed. All livestock is subject to strict welfare codes enforced by the RSPCA and DEFRA and covered by the Animal Welfare Act. The Act states that all animals have basic needs that must be fulfilled by their owner or keeper. Anyone found guilty of neglect of an animal in their care by causing unnecessary suffering or failing to provide a suitable diet or living conditions may have to serve a prison sentence. It is the tenant's responsibility to make themselves aware of and provide all necessary requirements to maintain wellbeing including environment, housing, feed, behaviour and being free from pain, injury, suffering and disease.
4. Between three and five hens (female) and rabbits may be kept.
5. Hens must be *registered with The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) using the service 'Register as a keeper of less than 50 poultry or other captive birds'* and kept in accordance with the British Hen Welfare Trust www.bhwt.org.uk who specify the ideal size of perch, house and scratching land. During times of avian flu they must be housed in accordance with current legislation.
6. Eggs should not be sold, and if there are any surplus which are given away this should be done in accordance with regulations regarding their storage and traceability.
7. Rabbits should be housed in secure hutches, with fresh drinking water and food. They must be checked daily and exercised regularly in accordance with [RSPCA](#) guidance on keeping rabbits.
8. Both keeping hens and rabbits should be done in accordance with the [National Allotment Society leaflet](#).
9. Soiled bedding and any dead hens or rabbits must be double bagged and taken home to dispose of in the tenant's general refuse bin.

10. Animals must only be fed what is necessary to discourage vermin.
11. Bee-keeping on an allotment must be carried out by someone with experience and knowledge (the British Bee Keepers Association (BBKA) www.bbka.org.uk run 10 week Beekeeping for Beginners courses and offer advice, advanced training and examinations to their members)
12. A tenant who keeps bees on their allotment must have **public liability insurance**, ideally through membership or affiliation with the British Bee Keepers Association. A copy of the insurance certificate must be sent to the Council.
13. Hives must be sited away from other plot holders, paths and public roads. The bees should be encouraged to fly over high hedges, fences or 2m screens around the hives, especially if their flight path crosses a footpath. Contact details for the beekeeper must be displayed on the allotment plot.
14. If someone on the site is allergic to bees any plans for keeping them must be discussed with them first and their medical needs taken into account.