**Policy: Installation of honeybee hives on Council owned/ managed land**

The Council is one of the largest landowners in the County Borough and is fortunate to be home to many parks, gardens and recreational areas. We recognise that activities within our green open spaces can have a significant impact on the local environment.

Whilst honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) are very important for food production and in some cases for wellbeing, unfortunately, under some circumstances, managed hives can have a harmful effect on local biodiversity. There is increasing concern that declines in wild pollinators may be exacerbated by unnaturally high densities of honeybees, associated with some forms of beekeeping.

Managed honeybees are known to affect wild pollinators in two main ways: competition for floral resources, and the spread of diseases. Each hive introduces an extra 35-40,000 honeybees to the area, and therefore beekeepers should create significant floral resources for each hive in order to reduce the pressure on wild bees already present in the locality of the hive. The honeybee is not an endangered species and in NPT we have small populations of endangered wild pollinators, such as the Shrill Carder Bee (*Bombus sylvarum*). These endangered wild bees are threatened by the introduction of honeybees, which could outcompete them for resources.

NPTC has a legal duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. In light of the above information, the installation of honeybee hives on NPTC owned or controlled land should therefore be prevented, in order to prevent damage to local biodiversity. In implementing this policy, this Council will:

* Refuse permission for the installation of honeybee hives on any land that is owned or controlled by the Council.

Exceptions to this policy will be considered for sites with historic or heritage history of bee keeping, or if wanted for food production (in exceptional circumstances). However, beekeepers will be required to provide enough new suitable habitat to support the hive, to prevent competition with the wild bees already present.

This policy is intended to cover future installations of honeybee hives post-adoption of the policy. There may be Council owned or managed sites where honeybee hives have been installed prior to the adoption of this policy. While this policy applies to all Council owned or managed properties, please note that management control over leased properties may be limited. As a result, the policy may not be fully enforceable in these locations.

This policy and its implementation will be monitored and will be reviewed in light of other Council policies and changing legislation as required.

You can read more about honeybees and conservation in the position statement on the [Bumblebee Conservation Trust website](https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/what-we-do/our-position-statements/).