



RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Section 16

DELEGATED

OFFICER DECISION Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
TAKEN BY:

PORTFOLIO
AREA:

Leisure Culture and Young People

SUBJECT: Cherry Tree Library Community Apiary and Learning Centre

1. DECISION

To approve the development of a Community Apiary and Learning Centre at Cherry Tree Library funded and managed by the Rooftop Bees Club.

2. REASON FOR DECISION

Bees provide an important service by pollinating crops and wild plants and they are also valued for supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Building on the success of the existing Davyfield and Town Hall hive projects, delivered by The Rooftop Bees Club, we would like to extend the managed bee initiative and create a 'not for profit' Community Apiary and Learning Centre on the fenced land to the rear of the library. This will not only encourage the healthy growth of the local bee population in the Cherry Tree area but will also serve as a learning centre to upskill trainee bee keepers and members of the community who may wish to establish their own hives by taking bees from the established library apiary as the colonies grow. The apiary will also serve as an educational resource for locals schools from early years to secondary level and youth groups, strengthening scientific links to the national curriculum and promoting personal, social and health education (PSHE) through the care of insects. The project will also encourage access to nature and outdoor spaces and help to tackle social isolation in the wider community by providing free involvement with the project.

The community apiary will consist of up to 4 hives and enclosed with additional fencing with camouflage to ensure safety in respect of bee flight lines and to deter unwanted interference. As the project develops a viewing window will be installed in the rear wall of the library allowing visitors to have real time experience of hive activity.

There is no financial implication for the Council. The development and maintenance of the project will be funded by the Rooftop Bees Club via community donations, grant applications, sponsorship and money raising activities and in time with the sale bee products.

In the same way, responsibility for all building work, fencing, etc. and the ongoing maintenance of the apiary site will lie with The Rooftop Bees as agreed via a lease arrangement.

Meetings have been held with the Cherry Tree Library Volunteers, who provide day to day service delivery in the library, and the group are in full support of the project.

Informal consultation has also taken place with those residents in the immediate vicinity of the site and with the manager of the Acorns Nursery which is located alongside the library, all responses have been very positive and the nursery has expressed an interest in being involved in the project.

Long term the project will contribute to the fight against colony collapse disorder (CCD) with people taking even basic knowledge of bees and other pollinators and creating bee friendly environments for everyone to enjoy.

3. BACKGROUND

There has been an overall decline in wild and honey bees. Bees and other pollinators are vital for food production and biodiversity and they face a range of pressures from habitat loss to pests and diseases. Managed hives are helping to buck the trends and the number of registered bee colonies is steadily improving.

There is adequate outdoor space to the rear of the fenced Cherry Tree Library site to comfortably accommodate working space and up to 4 hives safely.

4. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Other community sites have been considered but the location and space available at Cherry Tree Library is ideal. There is significant support for the project from residents and the library volunteers.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Adele Karwat
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DATE:	5.4.19
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	
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Signed:

Dominic P. Harris

Director Public Health & Wellbeing	Date: 24/4/19
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