



LIVESTOCK POLICY

Introduction

This policy has been produced to explain to tenants what Livestock may or may not be kept at Hart's Green Garden.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, Livestock means all animals including bees.

Policy Statements

No livestock shall be kept, however such livestock as is specifically referred to in the Allotment Act 1950, may be kept only with the prior consent, in writing of HDC.

Any tenant who wishes to keep livestock referred to in the Allotment Act 1950 on the plot can be request a form by emailing countryside@hart.gov.uk

Although the Allotment Act 1950 permits the keeping of hens and rabbits, the Council would discourage the keeping of such livestock on the plots. Since 1950, animal welfare has become a prominent issue and HDC would have to be mindful of the conditions under which any livestock be kept. HDC also must take into consideration the proximity of the surrounding area with regards to the encouragement of foxes, rats, etc. These considerations should be viewed in conjunction with the three statutory provisos attached to the keeping of livestock on a plot, namely that they are not to be kept in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health, do not create a nuisance to others and do not affect the operation of any other law which includes but is not limited to animal welfare legislation.

Any animals on site must not be kept for trade or business purposes and accordingly to be limited in number as Hart District Council may provide in writing.

Keeping of hens or rabbits

For those wishing to apply to keep hens and/or rabbits on the plot please complete the appropriate application form, this can be found at www.hart.gov.uk/countryside-and-leisure/harts-green-garden and return it to countryside@hart.gov.uk

Tenants wishing to keep hens or rabbits on the plot site must adequately show that they

have considered their neighbours, any other plot rules in force, national legislation and animal welfare taking into consideration the 5 freedoms of animal welfare developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC). These state that, at all times, individuals have a duty of care to ensure that their animals are free:

- from hunger and thirst
- from discomfort
- from pain, injury or disease
- to express normal behaviour
- from fear and distress

The size of **roosting area/hutch** is restricted to the size of the shed dimensions given in the Buildings and Constructions Policy. Covered or uncovered **runs** are permitted.

Consideration needs to be given to neighbours regarding the siting of the roosting and covered run areas to prevent shading on an adjoining neighbour's plot.

Plot holders are permitted to erect roosting/hutch areas in addition to having a shed and greenhouse on their plot if desired.

Applicants should support their application with appropriate plans or photographs.

For the benefit of other tenants cockerels are **not** permitted.

The Hart District Council reserves the right to consult with advisors (such as vets etc.) in the vetting of this application and monitoring the condition of livestock.

HDC will appoint a member of the Management Hart District Council to ensure that the stipulated actions (set out in the appendix) are undertaken by the due dates.

Regular monitoring of the site will be undertaken and if it is found that any of the actions are not undertaken to the satisfaction of the Hart District Council or its advisers the Hart District Council reserves the right to withdraw permission to keep livestock.

The Hart District Council reserves the right to withdraw permission to keep hens or rabbits due to any concerns they may have. This may include but is not limited to: increased vermin, smells, nuisance to other plot holders, animal welfare or any other matters relating to the keeping of the livestock.

Beekeeping

For those wishing to apply to keep bees, firstly please contact countryside@hart.gov.uk. Bees are not allowed to be kept within Hart's Green Garden. Instead, we may designate a suitable area in which bees can be kept outside/on the perimeter of the Garden.

Please take note of the policy below and complete the appropriate application form and return it to countryside@hart.gov.uk for approval.

This policy is based on a risk assessment and follows guidance provided by the National Society of plot and leisure gardeners. Bees are beneficial for pollination of plants and Hart District Council are happy to allow beekeeping subject to following conditions:

- Any tenant wishing to locate hives on a Hart's Green Garden must have written permission from Hart District Council, which will need to be satisfied about the exact location of the hive/s and the competence level of the beekeeper.
- The beekeeper must be a member of the British Bee Keepers' Association via a local association and must have third-party liability insurance to cover any possible claim that may occur. Evidence of membership and third-party liability insurance must be provided with the application form for keeping bees
- Due to health and safety considerations, Beehives will not be permitted within Hart's Green Garden or on individual plots.
- It will be the bee-keepers responsibility to erect any fencing and warning signs required. The requirement is likely to include:
- 4 foot-high wire/brush fencing to encourage the bees to fly away from the plots.
- Clear warning signs to (along with the fencing) discourage people from approaching the hives
- When positioning beehives, arrangements should be made so that the flightpath of the bees when leaving the hive is above head height. Bees operate on instinct and will attack and sting in defence of the hive. Place hives in a place that only the bee keeper can approach
- When considering new requests, the Hart District Council will take account of the number and location of existing hives. Evidence suggests a maximum of three hives per acre is considered desirable.
- New colonies of bees should be obtained from a source where the temperament of the parent colony is known to be gentle. If a colony becomes aggressive, the beekeeper must take appropriate action, either re-queening, or moving the colony to

an alternative site away from the plots. The position of which is to be agreed with Hart District Council.

- All beekeepers on Hart District Councils sites must maintain their

colonies in good state, regularly providing and replenishing water for the bees within the fenced area, carrying out regular inspections, practising swarm control and disease prevention and management (e.g. regular treatment against verroa).

National regulations regarding notifiable diseases (e.g. European and American Foul Brood) apply. It is recommended that beekeepers register with BeeBase, run by Defra's National Bee Unit and providing free access to the regional bee inspector and other resources.

- Before opening a hive, beekeepers must assess the local situation and alert anyone in the vicinity, if necessary, waiting for a more appropriate time. Beekeepers should always assess their own safety requirements and take appropriate measures, wearing protective clothing and suitable footwear.
- Non-compliance with this policy may result in a request to remove hives from site. All community garden users will be reminded that beehives are located nearby and that they should therefore take due precautions, such as staying clear of hives, especially when the beekeeper is at work. Anyone at risk from bee venom is advised to carry necessary first aid items (e.g. anti-histamine spray, EpiPen).

Further information and advice is available from the British Beekeepers Associations at bbka.org.uk

NO OTHER LIVESTOCK MAYBE KEPT

Dogs

No dogs shall be allowed on site unless they are on a lead, they must not cause a nuisance to other tenants or their plots. Any faeces must be removed by the plot holder and disposed of offsite.

Policy Implementation/ Enforcement

HDC will appoint a member of the Management committee to oversee this policy. In any situation where the committee deems assistance or advice from any external organization or professional is necessary, the costs of such consultation will be met by the plot holder. The plot holder will be kept informed of such actions from the outset.