

CHIGWELL PARISH COUNCIL
OFFICER'S REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 25/09/2025

Subject: Proposal to Install Four Beehives in the meadow behind Victory Hall

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for a local resident with beekeeping experience to install and manage four beehives within the meadow behind Victory Hall, in order to support pollinator numbers and contribute to local biodiversity.

2. Background

The meadow behind Victory Hall is a valued green space within the parish behind Victory Hall, intended to be developed as a meadow for community enjoyment and the benefit of wildlife. There is national concern about the decline in pollinators, which are vital to ecosystems and food production. A Chigwell resident with beekeeping knowledge has approached the Council with a proposal to site four hives there. The hives would be set in an area of the meadow that would be closed off to the public, reducing risk while providing environmental benefit. The initiative would support pollinator populations, enhance biodiversity and create potential educational opportunities for the community.

3. Proposal

Approval is sought to install four managed beehives in a secured section of the meadow behind Victory Hall that excludes the public. All costs for installation, maintenance and insurance would be met by the resident beekeeper. Before installation the resident would provide a risk assessment, proof of insurance and appropriate signage. The Council would retain the right to review the arrangement periodically and to end it if issues arise.

4. Council Responsibilities and Considerations

a. Finance and Best Value for Money

There is no cost to the Council. All expenses would be covered by the resident beekeeper.

b. Governance

A simple written agreement would set out responsibilities, review periods and termination rights.

c. Community Engagement

The project may offer learning opportunities for local schools and residents about bees and pollination. Public notices would explain the purpose and benefits of the hives.

d. Equal Opportunities

No adverse impact has been identified. Clear signage would ensure visitors are aware of the presence of hives, despite their location away from public areas.

e. Crime and Disorder

The hives would be discreetly located and regularly monitored by the resident beekeeper.

f. Human Rights

No impacts identified.

g. Health and Safety

Risk assessments would address potential hazards such as bee stings. Only the resident beekeeper would handle the hives. Locating the hives in an area closed to the public would reduce potential risks.

h. Biodiversity

The proposal supports local biodiversity objectives by improving pollination in and around the meadow behind Victory Hall and by contributing to the health of local plant and insect populations.

5. Recommendation

That the Council approves the installation of four managed beehives in the meadow behind Victory Hall by a local resident beekeeper. It is further recommended that officers are authorised to enter into a simple written agreement with the resident, subject to receipt of insurance and risk assessment documentation.

Prepared by:

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