

A Draft Proposal To Set Up A Sleaford Beekeepers Apiary

(Or The Lost Episode Of Last Of The Summer Wine)

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Summary

This proposal states that Sleaford Beekeepers Association (SBKA) should start setting up an Association Apiary on the land offered by Beeswax Dyson in Cranwell. The process of developing the site will be carried out in small steps linked to funds available. Funds will be raised separately and specifically for the apiary. Funds will be raised from as many sources as possible.

The activities of the apiary will be very dependant on the support of the membership. Activities will be scaled to the support available. The main function of the apiary will be education, both formal and informal. Should the resources be acquired the site could be used of SBKA meetings and social events.

It is proposed that development should start in the 2020 if this proposal is agreed by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2020

Project Description

The SBKA Apiary would be under the control and supervision of the SBKA members. It will be run by the members and in the early stages mainly for the members benefit. Beeswax Dyson have offered us a rectangular piece of 'waste' land 180m by 60m. The site is mainly covered by trees. If we accept, Beeswax Dyson have offered to improve the access and to provide an area for parking. There are no facilities on site. They will charge us £2/year for 'grazing rights'. It is suggested that the apiary has a separate bank account so as not to be a drain on the general account of SBKA. The proposers envision the development of the site to a level that meets the needs of SBKA members over a period of two to three years dependant on funds being raised. Should this point be reached members should re-evaluate the project and consider further expansion. As raising funds can be unpredictable it is suggested that project remains as flexible as possible.

The project should be run by an apiary manager who would be empowered to take day-to-day decisions. The apiary manager will be elected every year by the members at the AGM. The proposers of this project will seek election as apiary managers together as a job share. The apiary manager will be become a members of the SBKA committee. Member's support and ideas will be sort by the apiary manager informally through out the year.

It should be remembered that the site is the property of Beeswax Dyson, so all resources should be removable. Any major changes to the site including the number of people attending the site should be done with the approval of Beeswax Dyson.

Project Functions

The main and overriding function of the project will be education. Both formally and informally.

An example of formal training could be 'queen rearing' where this would be led by a trainer. A fee for attending training like this may be required. An example of informal training could be allowing members to use the site to simulate setting up an off-site apiary of their own and thus develop their beekeeping skills.

The apiary will also act as a "centre of focus" for members to meet and socialise. This would be true from the beginning of the project. There are no plans to register the site for marriages.

The project will store the Association's loan equipment.

A secondary function will be conservation and environmental concerns. The site on offer is sufficiently large that different environments could be established to promote diversity. The proposers do not see this occurring in the first year.

To attract the support of local groups by offering them facilities. This would only be done once the needs of SBKA members have been met. Examples of this sort of thing could be, with the support of Beeswax Dyson, a pond, nature trail, bird and bat boxes.

A final possible function could be to do scientific research, although this may be just a fantasy of one of the proposers.

Disadvantages

This project is VERY dependant on the support of members. If this is not forthcoming the project will fail. This is particularly true for the setting up period. Many of the tasks required will be mundane and repetitive e.g. cleaning. Members will have to share these duties.

Members should seriously consider whether the functions of an apiary could be done within the existing activities of the SBKA at considerably less cost and effort.

Funding Plan

Funds will be raised separately and specifically for the apiary and have no negative impact on SBKA general funds. Members will not be levied. Funds will be raised from as many sources as possible. As raising funds can be unpredictable it is suggested that project remains as flexible as possible.

Separate accounts should be kept and these should be submitted to the members before the AGM where they can be discussed. The project manager should keep detailed and up to date records available for scrutiny at short notice. The SBKA Treasurer may wish supervise this.

Many funding sources are available. Members are requested to actively seek for funding opportunities should the project go ahead. Known sources are businesses (e.g. Tesco's, Coop), other charities, Lottery, crowd funding.

Step by Step

The proposers see this as a flexible project that will change as it develops. The objectives set of one year may not be relevant the next. However plans should be made to give the project direction. To this end the following aims and objectives for the year 2020 are suggested. Many of the following suggestions come from the survey of members carried out in the summer of 2019. Members are encouraged to suggest changes and improvements.

For the first year (2020) all hives on the site and all their contents will become the property of SBKA.

Aim for 2020: To make the site accessible and useable for small scale activities.

Objectives for 2020:

1. Make the site accessible to road vehicles.
2. Provide a parking for 12 or more vehicles.
3. Clear and maintain an area sufficient to facilitate up to six hives, a shed or other shelter and some sort of toilet facilities.
4. To stock the site with at least two working hives.
5. Provide simple tools
6. To erect a small shed for shelter and storage.
7. To provide toilet facilities (If the project continues into a second year the toilet facilities will be greatly improved. Funding for this is already promised.)
8. Build a small 'contingency fund' for unforeseen events.

Costings for 2020 Objectives

1 Beeswax Dyson have indicated that they may be able to do this	£0.00
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3 Purchase of equipment to clear and keep are clear	~£100.00
4 Hives	~£200.00
5 Purchase of simple beekeeping tools and general tools	~£100.00
6 Purchase of Shed and installation	~£800.00
7 Purchase of Toilet Tent for the fist tear (https://www.popaloo.co.uk/shop/private-convenience-pack/?attribute_size=Large)	£125.00
8 Contingency fund (20%)	£130.00
	Total £1,455.00

It is suggested that the fundraising target for the year 2020 be set to this figure.

Site Management

Day to day management of the apiary site should be done by an apiary manager. The manager will have control over access and activities on the site. The manager should

consult with members as much as possible. The SBKA committee will supervise the apiary manager. Should disagreement occur between the apiary manager and the committee then either side can request a binding vote from the membership.

Some of the duties of the apiary manager will be:

1. Liaise with Beeswax Dyson as appropriate.
2. Construct a rota of volunteers for opening the site.
3. Be responsible of inspecting the hives on a regular basis.
4. Publish opening times and activities details.
5. Ensuring cleanliness and tidiness of the site.
6. Keep up to date records of usage and attendance.
7. Manage the loan equipment.
8. Provide safety notices as required.
9. Produce a yearly report for the AGM, including details of usage.

Membership Support

Members will have access during any advertised opening time and by arrangement with the apiary manager. Members will not be allowed to visit the site without the apiary managers agreement.

Members will be requested to staff the apiary open sessions during the active season. It is envisioned that this may as infrequent as once a month but may be more if support is forthcoming. The more support that is offered the more can be done for the members of SBKA.

A Test for Failure

It is important to consider what will happen if this project fails to be a success. There are many ways this project could fail but the proposers suggest that usage should be a key factor. At the AGM in January 2021 if the members consider that the apiary insufficiently used, a financial burden on the Association or for any other reason consider the project as failed then it should be terminated. All property and monies of the project will pass to the SBKA.

Amendments to this Plan

If any member wishes to submit minor changes to the proposal please send them to either of the proposers.

If any member wishes to submit major changes to this proposal please circulate the changes to the membership before the AGM and submit it to the AGM to be voted on.

Submission to the Membership

The proposers will ask the members of SBKA to actively support this project and vote to accept it at the SBKA AGM in January 2020. Please consider it carefully.

We ask that members support this proposal.

Keith Baker and Graham Luckhurst

Site on Map

