

Correspondence from allotment holders in relation to the beehives at Churchtown Farm allotments

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 08 April 2022 09:05

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Cc:

Subject: Bee's at Churchtown Farm allotments

I have been made aware that there has been a complaint has been made and the issue is to be discussed.

I have been a tenant working an allotment at Churchtown for several year and have even experienced the bee's swarming. I have never had any problems or been stung, to move them because a new development has taken place, particularly as the developers were asked not to remove a Cornish stone wall but still did so would be totally unfair.

The bees are wonderful pollinator's please don't cause them to be moved.

Your sincerely

From:

Sent: 08 April 2022 11:13

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: FAO Services Committee meeting, 21st April

Dear Lindsay,

I write in support of bee keepers at Churchtown Allotments. Please convey the contents of this letter to members of the Services Committee.

Bees have been kept safely at Churchtown since the site opened. The plot I work is very close to the hives and I have been stung once by a domesticated bee in ten years. This was not due to bad management but due to the impacts of climate change. I shall not go into great detail about this but basically, it is my observation that now we are experiencing more blocking weather events and milder winters, followed by colder springs (like this one and that in 2021), bees are active for longer and subjected to times when there is either very little moisture available and very little food, or some food but lots of unseasonably cold and wet weather, making foraging difficult. Neither of these conditions are good for bees. They can become aggressive when desperate for water/food, just like humans.

How did I get stung? The leaky tap by plot 12 is a preferred drinking spot for the bees in dry weather. I once accidentally got between a bee and its preferred drinking spot and it chased me off, got caught in my hair, and stung me on the neck. It wasn't a pleasant experience but it didn't put me off gardening. I just make sure that I tie my hair up when working and I put bee drinkers on the allotment which provide the moisture they need. These things happen sometimes. fixing the tap and providing a small solar fountain or similar, nearer to the hives, might be a good idea to suggest to the bee keepers.

I believe there is clear correlation with a sudden accusation of irritating bees our changing climate, and the recent prolonged dry spell. This is not the fault of bee keepers, it is the fault of the whole of humankind. Removing bees would be another flimsy sticking plaster on an ever growing problem for which the cure is a change in societal priorities, not a change in bee keeping practices.

Now I would like to draw the committees attention to the removal of hedging, disruption of a badger sett, and burning of all the grubbed out material that happened during lockdown. None of that activity was permitted as far as I can see, and I made Councillor Yates aware of the activity, which resulted in no detectable action. Removing hedging material and replacing with non-indigenous plants like laurel and Photinia is, as far as I am aware, also not permitted. However, despite Cornwall Council planning demanding reinstatement of hedges, I have not noticed any remediation taking place. You may want to check if any attempt has been made to reinstate traditional hedging or not.

The allotments, and the bee keeping area were established before the development. The recommended treatment for the area that I understand is now going to be developed was planting with natives, including wild daffodils. As you can imagine, I wonder why Saltash Town Council is not questioning why this also has not been done? Adherence to the original planning constraints would most likely have avoided this problem entirely.

As I understand it, hives are placed near hedges and trees in such a way as to encourage bees exiting hives to fly upwards. This is why they were placed where they are at Churchtown. It is not their fault that hedging that guided the bees up and away has been removed.

May I suggest the developer next door to Churchtown Allotments is asked to fund a new, native hedge to be planted around the bee keeping area. Species that would grow fast, supply nectar, and shelter for many species include Guelder Rose, Field Rose, Dwarf European Elder, Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Crab Apple. It could be very attractive. These plants could reach several feet in a few years if tended well. In the interim, a high mesh fence could be used to screen the area.

Finally I would like to point out that wild bees are just as likely to be found in the area as domesticated ones. If we condone the banning of domesticated bees, would we also condone the destruction of wild bee nests? We ought not hasten ecological collapse by presenting a sentiment that humans are more important than the rest of nature. Banning bee keeping at Churchtown could inadvertently do this. There are simple and effective ways we can avoid getting stung by bees. The most important being to grow a diverse range of plants including trees, shrubs, and herbs. This will provide forage and help to slow global warming and maintain a stable climate, reducing weather blocking events. Secondly we can all consume a lot less, and avoid using fossil fuels. Growing our own food, close to home, so we don't have to rely on processed foods and imports is key to this. Allotments and bees that provide food and pollinator services are an increasingly important element of sustainable lifestyles. And they are good for mental health and wellbeing. The more vegetation we remove, the harder it will be to avoid confrontations with distressed bees, domesticated and wild, and the more ill health we shall all experience.

Please choose bees (domesticated and wild), plants, and trees.

Yours sincerely,

From:

Sent: 08 April 2022 11:41

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Cc:

Subject: Churchtown Farm Allotments, Support for retention of Bee Hives.

Good day,

I am writing in response to the “alleged” Bee issue on Churchtown Farm Allotments, on all our time spent on our allotment over the previous three years we have never encountered any issues with the Bees from the Hives nearby, or in fact them causing any issue with other allotment holders.

They seem to be very benign and do not cause any problems, also bees are an integral part of growing crops and plants as they are pollinators.

Please add our names to any list supporting the retention of Bee Hives on our allotment.

From:

Sent: 08 April 2022 11:44

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Cc:

Subject: Bees

Dear Lindsay,

We are allotment plot holders at Churchtown in Saltash, Plot 24.

We are saddened and outraged to hear that the wonderful bees and hives on the land are going to be removed.

This is utterly ridiculous when they are clearly an essential part of our allotment community, and our wider environment.

Our children have been deliberately researching and planting to support the bees - this is a wonderful educational opportunity and something we should all be supporting, especially in these times of climate crisis.

As a teacher, parent and gardener I cannot believe this makes any sense at all and we will be forced to contact other agencies to support our cause if need be. The bees are of absolutely no danger at all to us, our children or community. Removing them, however, will cause harm to us all.

Please please re-think and canvas us allotment holders who visit several times a week all year round.

Please feel free to contact us as we feel strongly about this matter.

With best wishes,

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 08 April 2022 16:54

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Re bees at allotments

I'm writing in support of keeping our Bee colony at church town allotments. I feel strongly that it would be a mistake to get rid of them ,they play an important part in both the environment and pollinating our crops ,without bees we would not enough food for the world survive . Yours sincerely Lorraine

From:

Sent: 08 April 2022 19:27

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Churchtown Farm Allotments

Good Day Lindsay,

Whilst chatting to fellow allotmenters I was told that the Council were in the process of forcing the beekeepers at Church town Farm to remove their hives because one ignorant person has complained. If this is true I wish to strongly protest and contest such a decision. The bees are a major part of gardening. Without them how are my runner beans etc to be pollinated?

Of course this rumour may well be untrue in which case I am sorry to bother you. If it is true however I suggest the council write to everyone on site to canvas their opinion and/or convene a meeting to discuss same. It might be worthwhile if the rumour is true in publishing any risk assessments done by the Council which might support such an arbitrary decision.

If no risk assessment has been carried out then WHY NOT!

Kind Regards

PS what is the point of flying the Ukrainian flag in support of a subjugated group of people when the Council seeks to ride roughshod over its own parishioners. We all have long memories when it comes to voting time!

Kind Regards

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 10 April 2022 07:46

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Removal of bees from allotment

Dear Lindsay,

Request from a nearby resident to remove bees from Churchtown allotment area.

I'm astonished that Saltash town council would even consider asking the bee hives to be removed from the allotment. Maybe this complainant can give us proof eg photos of aggressive bees? Surely they must have known there were bee's nearby when they moved there and that living by fields there was an inevitable risk of bees/insects ect. Then if they don't like the country side they should move. Sadly I have to say there are also bee hives in cities these days.

I actually live on the waterfront, there are always kids screaming and shouting down here, dogs barking and doing there business on the green. Oh I nearly forgot to tell you about the water rats everywhere and I don't like it either, but this is life and I just get on with it so maybe this resident needs to just get on with the bees.

Thanks for your time Lindsay and please share with whoever needs to see it.

Best wishes

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 10 April 2022 20:12

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Cc:

Subject: Removal of Beehives at Churchtown Allotments

To members of the Services Committee.

I write in support of the beekeepers keeping their hives on the edge of Churchtown allotments.

The natural world is in serious trouble. Bees, birds, butterflies and other wildlife are in decline. These bees live in an ideal position with plenty of flowers to pollinate thus providing us with bountiful vegetable crops. Living on the edge of a Nature Reserve where no pesticides are used must mean prolonged lives and a plentiful supply of pollen.

I have had an allotment here for 8 years and have never had any problem from the bees. Please allow them to be left in this ideal situation.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 11 April 2022 19:55

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Bees 🐝

Hi Lindsay, this is just a little email, giving my support on keeping the bees at the allotment. Would be such a shame if they had to go ☐ They are very well looked after, I've never seen or had a problem with them. I think, it's lovely to have them over there in the countryside. My little grandson loves to go and see them in their hives with the allotment bee keepers and they made lovely honey, as well as being so good for the flowers and plants. With so much sadness in the world at the moment, it's a shame somebody has to complain..!!! Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 13 April 2022 08:47

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: FAO Services Committee Meeting 21st April

Dear Ms Peters

I share Allotment with and we have had our plot from the very beginning in 2013. We are close to the water trough at the bottom of the plots and therefore one of the nearest to the bee hives.

I love seeing the bees buzzing about and they seem to love our blackcurrant bushes in particular. It is wonderful to know that they take nectar from our flowers which then results in delicious honey being produced. As we all know honey bees are important pollinators for food production and we should be encouraging and helping bee keepers in their efforts, not making life difficult for them, especially in these challenging times for our environment.

To my knowledge nobody has been chased by swarms of bees and if somebody very occasionally gets stung by one, I think they need to just get over it! After all, we live in a rural area and one can get stung by any insect anytime, anywhere in the countryside or in one's own garden. Horseflies and wasps are far from more of a problem than bees!

The bees have been at the allotments almost right from the start. I implore you to allow them to stay. They are quite simply part of our community. It may be that they were more upset by the building works last year, but those are largely now completed and therefore that should not be an issue.

With respect to the concerns raised regarding safety for town council staff, I imagine people would be prepared to contribute towards the costs of providing PPE and fundraising could help this.

In summary, my question would be "What steps could be taken, and/or compromises made by both the town council, and those that are complaining, to enable the bee hives to remain in situ?"

In other words, let's try and solve the problem for the sake of our environment and the enjoyment of so many.

Kind regards

From:

Sent: 14 April 2022 07:42

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Churchtown Farm Allotment Beehives

Dear Town Councillors

We are writing to you in support of the bee-keepers at the Churchtown Farm Allotments, St Stephens, Saltash.

It is our understanding that the Town Council may ask the bee-keepers to remove their hives from the allotment site following a complaint from the person currently owning the plot of land adjacent to the bee hives and it is his intention to build a property on this land.

To date we know that there was an amicable discussion last year about the bees with the complainant, this was ended abruptly by the complainant and no more was heard until a complaint was lodged with you the Town Council

The hives are positioned in a corner next to the boundary wall that was covered in ash trees and shrubs enabling the bees a route upwards and away from the houses and allotments. This wall (an ancient boundary wall) was demolished, the shrubs and trees removed with no discussion or possibly permission. The bees obviously then had no trajectory to follow. The beekeepers I believe did have a discussion with the person involved and he stated he would rebuild the hedge. This did not happen. It was decided that fencing would be installed to provide a flight path for the bees.

In the meantime builders were working using drilling machines very close to the bees without adequate protection and disrupting the bees. This we believe led to the bees protecting their environment and becoming unpredictable.

Main issues

1. If the wall/hedge had not been demolished and trees removed there would not be a problem
2. An application to demolish the wall should have been obtained
3. If the builders had given the beekeepers notice the hives could have been closed up for two days to allow work unhindered. This could also apply when any tree trimming is required.
4. There have NEVER been any complaints from ANY allotment holders regarding the bees

5. The bee keepers are covered by insurance to strip/cut the grass in the area of the beehives, this has since been confirmed by the SWCAA and a copy of Public Liability will be given to the Council

The allotments have been at the Churchtown cemetery since 2011 along with its bee-hives. We have always worked very closely with the town council officers and cemetery staff. The allotments have been going from strength to strength in that time and now 11 years later are probably the most active of all the town's allotments groups.

The bee-hives have always been an integral part of the ecosystem of the allotments being at the bottom of the site. The scientific justification for the allotments and its bee-hives are well explained by plot-holder, Dr Rebecca Pearce on our Facebook page. If you look at that page and emails from plot-holders to the Council, the support for the bee-keepers and the retention of the hives is overwhelming.

The hives have always been diligently managed by bee-keepers; Phil Jordan and Tim Welbourne and Will. The bee-keepers also have their own plots on the site.

We have never personally had any problems with bees hives being on site and feel there is no justification for their removal.

Our understanding is that the reason for the request for removal was because someone was stung by a bee and claimed the bees had become aggressive.

The circumstances of how the complainant was stung needs to be examined. Was this person working within close proximity of the bees and if so, was the relevant health and safety risk assessment done? (Was the person wearing the correct protective bee protection equipment for example?).

At present there are no building works (I believe) in the area where the bees are and the bees now have a good flight path up and over the hedge/fencing

In the last 11 years the plot-holders, cemetery staff have co-existed quite happily with the bee-hives. If the problem is now with the bordering new development and its contractors doing works on the boundary; please remember the allotments and their associated bee-hives were there first and deserve precedence.

We are hoping the Saltash Town Council because of its support of 'green' values would be sympathetic to the plight of the bees and retain the hives at the allotments.

As to your final recommendation, we do think this is a knee jerk reaction without exploring other options and judging by the comments (now over 130) on the **Saltash Community Facebook page** and comments on our own Allotment page on Facebook plus letters that have already been sent in, we believe the bees should remain.

From:

Sent: 14 April 2022 09:19

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Churchtown Allotment Bees

14 April 22

Madam Chairwoman,

I write to you regarding the bees currently kept on the allotments at Churchtown.

The recommendations made in the report to be presented on Thursday 21 April conflates two issues with the recommendation to remove the bees being based on one complaint and an issue around insurance to cut grass.

I don't intend to insult your intelligence explaining why bees are such an important part of our ecosystem and why looking after them is something we, as a rural community, should be doing.

If there is an issue on insurance to cut grass then this should be resolved but a "lack of important documents" shouldn't be the basis of a decision to remove the bees.

Unfortunately, the report before you is recommending an easy option, I caution you against this. Easy options are rarely the right one, in this case it would be easy to remove the bees and thereby remove the issue. However, this complaint was received on 31 Mar 22, 14 days ago, with the report being filed shortly thereafter. I encourage this subcommittee not to take either the quick or easy option of removing the bees but to endeavour to find a way where the residents of Saltash can live and support our ecosystem at the same time.

Kind regards,

From:

Sent: 14 April 2022 14:22

To: enquiries <enquiries@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Bees at Churchtown allotments

Hello,

I have recently read about the possibility of the beehives at the allotment being removed due to someone claiming that they have been stung multiple times.

I am writing to say that I am very against this idea for the following reasons:

1. Bees are critical for food produce.
2. The Saltash people and the STC should be doing all they can to promote wildlife.
3. As the partner of a beekeeper with hives on our land, I can confidently state that honey bees do not routinely sting humans unless provoked.

Before any decision to remove the hives is made, I'd like to hope that STC would investigate the complaint properly and ensure that the person who is making the

complaint is 100% certain that the stings are from honey bees and not wasps (who can be nasty little blighters and sting just for fun!).

I hope it is OK to write to you direct rather than through a Councillor as I live on the outskirts of Saltash so, whilst I use Saltash amenities I don't actually come under the STC area.

Many thanks,

From:

Sent: 15 April 2022 12:19

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Bees

Dear Lindsay Peters

I am writing in response to the agenda you will be discussing at the meeting on April 21 regarding the bees at Church Town Allotment.

I would be most unhappy if they were removed from the site. I have never had any concern when they visit my Plot no. 25. In fact I welcome them as a valuable asset to the essential role they play in the growing cycle of my plants.

I would strongly recommend a solution other than the removal of the hives. Perhaps they could be relocated further away from the houses

From:

Sent: 18 April 2022 20:07

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: Beehives at Churchtown allotments, Saltash.

Dear Saltash Town Council Members,

I am writing to you in relation to the complaint you have received about the beehives located on the perimeter of Churchtown Allotments in Saltash.

Myself and my partner are allotment holders at this site and have been for 6 or 7 years now. We spend a significant amount of time working on our allotment plot, each year, all times of the day and evening, throughout the year. Over the past 6 or 7 years neither one of us has ever once been stung by a bee whilst on the allotment. It may be worth mentioning that we have both been frequently and repeatedly bitten by horse flies.

You stated in your report that it was resolved for the hives to be kept in the area adjacent to the allotments in 2011, to the best of my knowledge in the now 12 years that the hives have been kept at this location, this is the first and only complaint that you have received despite many people working and tending their plots in close vicinity to the hives over the past 12 years.

When planning permission was given in 2018 to build houses on the land next to the allotments and building work started, it quickly became clear to those of us who tended the allotments the significant impact of this building work on the natural environment.

There was a noticeable reduction in birds and other wildlife around the allotments, people worked on the building plots almost all hours of the day and evening with loud music and machinery making significant noise, dust and vibration disruption, there was also a huge increase in vehicles around the plots and on several occasions I found dead birds on my plot which I had never done before. I cannot say for sure the reason for this but I do not believe this is completely unrelated to the building work adjacent to the allotments. I am not a bee expert, I do not have anything more than lay knowledge of bees but I also do not think it is out of reason that given the changes we noticed, the building work will have caused significant disruption and distress to the bee hives and to the bees themselves who were located there long before the building plots. I have never found the bees to be aggressive, but if there was to be considered any aggression from them, should it also not be considered that this is most likely because of the disruption caused by the building work (a temporary situation).

I think it is both unreasonable and shocking that in 2022, when climate and conservation within the UK are largely and publicly on the government agenda an individual plot owner can purchase a plot of land and think him or herself more important than the natural environment in which they have chosen to purchase a plot and are unable to both consider and tolerate the impact of their actions on the immediate natural environment. I cannot believe that environmental factors were not included in the granting of planning permission for this site and were not considered by any individual choosing to purchase a plot to build property on that is situated next to both allotments and a nature reserve.

The plot owner removed the Cornish wall which previously provided a guide for the bees, to guide them both up and away from the buildings, I understand this has now been replaced but at a lesser height and the hedge next to it is currently only approximately 1 foot high and not substantial, again, the actions of the plot owner have failed to consider the impact on the environment or the natural habitat in which they are proposing to build property and/or potentially live.

As previously stated I am not a bee expert, and do not have any expertise in any area relating to climate, conservation or the environment. I have, however taken the time to write to you in petition against the removal of the hives from this location.

I am horrified to think that the legacy we will be leaving the future generations is that of careless and selfish actions which take no account of the natural environment and when the natural environment reacts to this, the response is to ask for it to be removed!

I fully appreciate that the beehives are placed in this location however the bees, as you will be aware provide an essential service to the local ecosystem, pollinating both our wild and cultivated plants, providing food, and in doing so contributing to the economy. I strongly feel we should be encouraging bees, insects and wildlife, teaching the next generations how to do the same and prioritising hobbies and activities that support conservation and the promotion of environmental matters.

In summary, the bees were there before the houses. Surely the bees being considered a 'nuisance' is subjective – I certainly do not consider them a 'nuisance'. I am aware that some hives have already been relocated and I am sure that bees are kept in many

locations throughout the UK which are as close, if not closer to property through sensible discussion and education between homeowners and beekeepers. Perhaps the landowner reinstating the wall to the correct height and the regrowth of the hedge will allow the land owner to enjoy his property without disruption from the bees and be a far better solution to this problem than the relocation of the bee's away from an environment in which they inhabited for the last 12 years.

Yours Sincerely

From:

Sent: 19 April 2022 10:47

To: enquiries <enquiries@saltash.gov.uk>

Cc:

Subject: Bees at Churchtown allotments

Dear council members,

We understand that a complaint has been raised by the person developing the field adjacent to the Churchtown allotments for housing regarding the presence of bee hives on the allotments.

We believe this complaint to be quite unjustified and unreasonable. We are tenants of plot 13, and have been since the creation of the Churchtown allotments. Ours is the nearest plot to the beehives, and we have never been troubled by the bees. If the bees were any kind of nuisance we would be amongst the first to know. In our experience if the bees are left alone they will leave you alone! Nevertheless it has proved possible to work our plot very close to plants that bees are around; after all, the bees instincts are to collect pollen, not to attack people without good reason. Honey bees can sting but are not dangerous.

Bee hives were present on the allotments long before houses began to be built adjacent to the site. It would seem most unjust for a private individual to be allowed to influence whether bees are kept there or not. Beekeeping is a productive, traditional activity with a very long history, and should not be marginalised or stigmatised by people who perhaps do not understand it.

The Churchtown allotments are situated at the very margin of Saltash town. In such a rural setting, and close to a nature reserve, surely the presence of bees should be welcomed, especially in these times when ecosystems and biodiversity are threatened from many directions.

We consider that it would reflect poorly on the council if beekeeping at Churchtown allotments were to be banned. We ask the council to support the Churchtown beekeepers.

Yours sincerely

From:

Sent: 20 April 2022 13:39

To: Lindsay Peters <Lindsay.Peters@saltash.gov.uk>

Subject: LETTER RE: REMOVAL OF BEEHIVES AT CHURCHTOWN ALLOTMENTS

Dear Committee Members,

I understand it has been recommended that the beehives are removed from the Churchtown Allotment site. I am shocked to hear this and struggling to understand why this is being recommended.

Having read the Report, the first thing I noticed is the speed with which the recommendation has been made. After 11 years of safe beekeeping, it has been decided just 12 days after the first ever complaint that the hives should be removed. This is a shockingly quick decision and I cannot see how there has been time to look at real solutions to the problem. It appears that the Report is recommending to just opt for the quickest remedy.

I understand that the complaint has not been made by a resident living close to the beehives but by the owner of a building plot and it does appear that they may have unwittingly contributed to the problem by wrongly removing a Cornish hedge and wall belonging to the Town Council.

The bees have also been antagonised by the vibration and disruption caused by building works.

The Report seems to centre around "health and safety of staff" and "lack of important documents" with regard to grass cutting, but surely there are ways to address these issues. Perhaps some of the work could be done at the end of the year when the bees are overwintering, staff could be provided with extra PPE and perhaps it would be possible for the beekeepers to close up the hives occasionally if work has to be carried out. As for liability insurance, why not allow the beekeepers time to obtain this in the same way that allotment holders do each year? Alternatively perhaps wood chippings could replace the grass, that way no cutting will be necessary.

I understand that the beekeepers have already been helping to solve any problems by erecting fencing and shrubs and offering to remove some of the hives.

The report states that it "can't be for certain that the bees don't affect other allotment holders". There was a way of finding out. We could have been asked - before making the recommendation. But I think it is clear that the allotment holders who have sent in letters on this matter are only affected in a positive way and want you to protect the bees not evict them. Speaking for myself I can say that the bees do nothing but enrich life on the allotment. It is a delight and a privilege to have them buzzing around and wonderful to watch the beekeepers tending to them.

The final item in the Context part of the Report refers to part of The Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 79. After reading through that Section of the Act I am not certain that the part quoted even relates to bees. It refers to animals, not insects and the Act does make a distinction between the two as it mentions insects in the

next part of the section – “emanating from relevant industrial, trade or business premises” – and I don’t think allotments could be described as any of these.

Nowadays most people understand the importance of bees as pollinators. Children are taught about bees at school and T.V. gardening programmes show us how to encourage them into our gardens. All around our town Cornwall Council has put up signs about Bringing Nature Into Your Neighbourhood. They are leaving areas of land to grow wild and creating new wildflower patches to provide pollen, nectar and shelter for our butterflies and bees. There is even a World Bee Day.

I don’t want it to look as though the message coming from Saltash is Build Houses and Nature Move On.

Please don’t remove our bees.

END OF REPORT