

Dear Bee Keeper,

Newcastle City Council is facilitating a major project partnership to support all types of bees in the City. We are writing to you to request that you help us complete a comprehensive Bee Strategy for Newcastle.

As I am sure you are all aware the bee population is currently in decline not just in Newcastle but throughout the world. This issue is being addressed by the City Council by producing a Bee Strategy for the city that will help to sustain the current bee population and provide the conditions for them to flourish in the future.

We have created a Bee Steering Group and are working in partnership with Newcastle & District beekeeping Association, allotment holders, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, lecturers and students from Newcastle University, along with key officers from the City Council. We have already begun to raise awareness with residents over the issues (including at World Environment Day) and are working with primary and secondary schools across the city in a range of activities (See photos). We are also ensuring that, wherever possible, the Council's flora displays are bee friendly. In addition we are in the process of designing 'bee homes' to install for bumble bees and scoping where in the city we would like these homes to be installed. These are just some of the early positive initiatives.



We are asking for beekeepers to inform us of where their hives are. This information you can provide us with will be invaluable in helping us answer some of the questions posed by the problem informing our subsequent decisions and allowing us to achieve our objectives successfully. It will enable us to determine where in the city our beehives are now, thus being able to ensure that the surrounding areas have the correct environment for honey bees, as well as enabling us to improve areas of the city where there are no or fewer honey bees.



We would therefore like you to complete the attached form and send it to ERIC North East, the Environmental Records Information Centre, based in the Great North Museum: Hancock in Newcastle. However, please be assured that under the Data Protection Act 1998 this information will **only** be used for the purposes of producing a Newcastle City Bee Strategy and not shared with any other parties or for any other activity. Newcastle City Council officers will receive a map which shows distribution of hives rather than individual details. The Strategy should be completed by the autumn of 2011. Following the completion of the project all information obtained will be destroyed unless you tick

the box on the form which allows the Great North Museum: the Hancock to keep your location on file.

I understand the sensitive nature of the information we are asking for and that some of you may be reluctant to supply us this information but I can not emphasize enough that the information will be managed with the up most confidentiality and the huge benefits this information will bring to the project in achieving a positive outcome for the future of bees.

If you have any queries please contact Russell Nelson who is co-ordinating the strategy – [Russell.nelson@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:Russell.nelson@newcastle.gov.uk) 0191 2778930). Please also contact Russell if you would like to receive this form electronically. Please visit [www.newcastle.gov.uk/bees](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/bees) for further information.

Thanks in advance

Yours Sincerely,



Nigel Hails

Chair of the Bee Steering Group & Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Please send replies to :**

ERIC North East Co-ordinator  
Environmental Records Information Centre North East  
incorporating the EYE Project (Exploring Your  
Environment)

Great North Museum: Hancock  
Barras Bridge  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE2 4PT

Tel: 0191 222 7868  
Fax: 0191 222 6753  
Email: [naomi.hewitt@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.hewitt@ncl.ac.uk)  
[naomi.hewitt@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:naomi.hewitt@twmuseums.org.uk)

For further information on about ERIC North East, Please see [www.twmuseums.org.uk/eric/](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/eric/).

