**AYCLIFFE BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION**

**Swarm Collection Protocol**

**Updated May 2025**

**The current Swarm coordinator is Roger Chappel**. Any member who knows of a swarm that needs dealing with, should contact Roger Directly on **07905 190701** to ensure we offer a prompt response

1. Swarm coordinator provides telephone number on public records e.g. BBKA Swarm List
2. Swarm collectors invited to apply and all contact details to be entered on the appropriate What’s App group. Collectors advised to keep their phones available throughout the swarming season and advise the coordinator if/when they are unavailable to collect.
3. Coordinator receives a call from a potential applicant, takes name, address, postcode, & telephone number. Coordinator does everything possible to ascertain if it is a genuine Honey Bee swarm. Assures the person they will be in touch in half an hour with the possible name of a collector.
4. Posts notice of a request with postcode on WhatsApp group, together with other information provided including photos etc. This means people will know the general location and decide whether they wish to respond.
5. **At no time should any of the applicants contact details be published on any ABKA WhatsApp group**
6. Gives 15 minutes for people to respond, indicating their willingness to collect. Stresses that no-one should collect until given the confirmation to do so.
7. Allocates the collection to one of the members so all know who is to collect and gives name, address, and number of the applicant.
8. Contacts the applicant who made the call to give the name of the collector and confirming that there is no charge for this service.
9. The person collecting should then report back on the outcome to the WhatsApp Group, so we know a successful collection has taken place.
10. The applicant may offer voluntary donation to ABKA or to cover legitimate out of pocket expenses
11. Ownership of the swarm is confirmed to be the collector.
12. Please note that collecting for commercial gain contravenes the BBKA insurance terms and would therefore invalidate the public liability insurance.

Note: In the unlikely event that Roger cannot be contacted please contact the secretary (Peter Bulmer) on 07949 382125.