

[Home](#) > [Residents](#) > [Planning environment and community](#) > [Environmental](#) > **Advice on bees**

# Advice on bees

Last Modified June 13, 2018

[Skip to main content](#)  

When bees are providing little disturbance to the surrounding area, it is better not to disturb them.

## Bumble bees

Bumble bees begin to appear in early spring, usually around April. They are not aggressive insects. Although possessing a sting, it is unusual for them to use it unless there is a direct danger to them or their nest.

Bumble bees are only present for approximately 5 or 6 months. Their nests are quite small and, if left alone, will die out at the end of the summer.

The queen bee and the workers usually die off around September/October. The last hatching of a small number of new queens will hibernate over winter.

After this time, bumble bees do not re-emerge until the following spring.

Leaving a bumble bee nest alone will not pose any risk of structural damage to your property.

Sometime, due to the location of a nest, it is necessary to remove them due to an increased risk of being stung.

Bumble bees are an extremely beneficial insect, pollinating many plant types. Unfortunately they are now in decline and have become an endangered species. This is why it is usually better to leave them alone wherever possible.

## Honey bees

Unlike bumble bees, honey bees can appear out of the blue and in large numbers, usually in their thousands.

From around the middle of May it is possible for a swarm of bees to appear and attach themselves to a wall, a tree, a fence or any other structure.

Usually they will only stay attached to a structure for a short period of time and will then leave to look for a better location.

If the bees do stay attached in a solid ball formation, please contact a local bee keeper.

The bee keepers society may know where the swarm originated and might be able to send out a bee keeper to remove the bees and re-house them.

For a bee keeper, please contact

- Keith Hallam on 01253 283459 or 07967 636866
- Paul Davenport on 07377 661951

As with bumble bees, there are times when it is not possible to remove the honey bees such as when the swarm lands in an awkward place like a chimney or fascia board. In these cases, treatment is the only course of action available.

## Contact

If the pest control service needed for the removal of bees, please call 01253 477477.

For enquiries about bees, please telephone 01253 478361.



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- [Community-rights](#)
- [Council-meetings](#)
- [Creating-a-better-Blackpool](#)
- [Have-your-say](#)
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