

Bees

By Laura Fowler



What I'm going to talk about?

I here, today, to do a presentation on bees, but do you know why?

If bees could speak, I think that they would have explained a long time ago their situation, but sadly they don't. However, thanks to:

- ✿ The bee conservation area in Vendée (France) called: La Folie Fanfarine

- ✿ The Internet

I hope to explain how and why the parish council should save these small creatures.

Why are bees important?



According to La Folie Fanfarine, if bees were to become extinct, we would lose up to 65% of our agriculture.

They are responsible for:

✿ 85% of the existence of plants

✿ 1/3 of the food we eat

Apples, blueberries, cucumber, tomatoes would disappear...leading up to the extinction of our bigger mammals, such as cows.



On a larger scale...

All bees:



Estimated
1/3 of food
is pollination
dependent



Make 6,000
tonnes of honey



Pollinate **70**
types of crop



Contribute
£400 million
to the economy

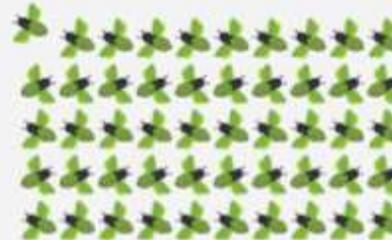
A colony:



Pollinates
4,000 m²
fruit trees



Makes avg
14kg
of honey



Contains
50,000
bees

Why are bees disappearing ?

The main reason that our bees are disappearing is because of:

PESTICIDES



They damage the ability of bees to gather food, but more importantly are also killing them.

The two pesticides, *neonicotinoids* and *coumaphos*, are commonly used by British farmers today and have shown to target bees brain, making them slow learners and forget floral scents.



What should the Parish Council do?

We can create natural habitats for the bees such as:

- ✿ Avoiding to cut the grass too short
- ✿ Planting bee friendly plants: mints, lavender, geraniums... in unused allotments and in public areas.
- ✿ STOP (or avoid as much as possible) the use of pesticides. i.e. by talking to local farmers and gardeners
- ✿ Donate to the BBKA



Think bigger

Another solution is to keep and maintain a beehive!

According to the BBKA bee keeping is a cost friendly job, that isn't too time consuming:

- ✿ It takes ½ hour of your time

- ✿ Around £250 to start and maintain

If the parish council is interested, they should go to the BBKA website:

http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/getting_started

The End

Thank you for listening, I hope that you enjoyed my presentation!

