



Forum Area or Division:	Allerdale - Lakes to Sea Community Panel
Reference:	CCGA/2026-24
Group Name:	Keswick Bee Keepers Association
Community Development Officer:	Susan O'Neill
Community Development Assistant:	Jodie Thurlow
Amount Requested:	£4,500.00
Total Project Cost:	£5,950.00

APPLICATION REPORT

Application Summary

Keswick Bee Keepers is a registered charity and are an open group of members who keep honey bees and are interested in a sustainable environment for the greater benefit to all pollinators. As a group we welcome anyone who shares this interest or is interested in learning more, we operate a training apiary where we welcome prospective, new and existing bee keepers, providing education and awareness of beekeeping and the importance of bees in our environment.

With the growing number of people interested in providing wildlife havens and increasing the habitat for pollinators, we encourage the diversity and working with other wildlife groups.

Particularly in 2024 we will lead awareness of the danger of Asian Hornets (*Vespa Velutina*) in the our area. The Asian Hornet is a non-native invasive species, of concern to DeFRA due to the damage it inflicts on all pollinators, as well as danger to the public.

The Association takes part in the annual Keswick Agricultural Show, welcoming and informing attendees who visit our stand as to the importance of pollinators and nature of bee keeping to the environment. Considerable interest is received from children who attend the Show and take great interest in our live bee display and the beeswax candles and honey that are displayed. We derive Association income form the sale of honey produced at the apiary and which is the result of the training and maintenance performed in bee keeping training and hands-on experience at the apiary during the season.

Key Themes Met

Initially the benefit will be much appreciated by the membership of the Association in having a better and secure facility. However, over the past three years the membership has increased and will in the future increase owing to the number of enquiries received and people taking an interest in a sustainable environment, protecting pollinators and wanting to engage in bee keeping as a hobby.

This sits well with the sustainability plan of both Keswick Town Council and Cumberland Council in the stated objective to work with "ACTion With Communities Cumbria Neighbourliness and Rural Wellbeing Project, Cumbria Action for Sustainability and other community grown and green initiatives across Cumbria".

To engage on a practical level it has been shown that a training facility, for residents (prospective members) to learn the art of bee keeping and the correct approach to that and the statutory record keeping involved, which is essential to ensure good practice and to show the practical and legal aspects involved are familiar to members and visitors. In this way the ambition of Keswick Town Council to encourage the use of land for flower planting as well as maintaining the existing garden areas (which are much admired by visitors), will enhance the need for more pollinators of all types.

As a training apiary we welcome approaches from local groups and organisations who would like to gain a deeper insight into bee keeping and the benefit of pollinators to our environment. and the enjoyment of it as a shared hobby, knowing support from fellow bee keepers is available.

A significant aspect of the education and training we provide is on the healthy management of bee colonies, the treatment of and eradication of pest and disease, some of which are statutory notifiable to DeFRA. Cumbria bee keepers (the combined Counties) have been able to manage the impact of these and it is essential we continue to do so. Typically: Varroa Beetle; Small hive mite; European Foul Brood; Chalk Brood. We work closely with the Cumbria Bee Keepers Association; the British Beekeepers Association; the National Bee Unit (DeFRA) and others. This is also with the threat posed to all pollinators by the non-native invasive species, Asian (Yellow Legged) Hornet. Keswick Bee Keepers have formed an Asian Hornet Team that will respond to any sightings reported and be pro-actively vigilant.

Number of People Benefiting

10- 50

Breakdown of Project Costs

16 x 12 Garden shed including delivery, installation and VAT = £5,500

Site clearance = £450

Total cost of project = £5,950

Previous CCC Funding

No

Grant Amount Recommended

2000

Officer comments

This project meets investment criteria and fits into the Lakes to Sea panel priorities of community health and wellbeing, community involvement and community resilience

Comments from Elected Member(s) / Neighbourhood Forum / Grant Panel

Member Signature:

Date: