

# SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

## Drone Policy

- 1.1 This policy governs the flying of model planes and drones on Council land.
  - 1.2 The take-off and landing of drones, model planes or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) is generally prohibited from Council land without the express permission of the Town Council.
  - 1.3 If a person or company wants to launch a drone or unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), (including those carrying photographic equipment for commercial purposes) from land or on property owned or controlled by the Council, permission must first be sought and granted from the Community Services and Environment Committee.
  - 1.4 The CAA Drone code says that drones should not be flown within: 150ft (50m) of people and properties or 500ft (150m) of crowds and built-up areas. This means that the parks and other sites that the Council own are generally not suitable for the flying of drones because they are too close to buildings and/or too busy with visitors to make the flying of drones safe.
  - 1.5 **Permission to launch a drone or UAV from a Council owned site will not generally be granted in relation to any public parks or open spaces in Council ownership**, unless the intended purpose is for education, promotion of the place (eg tourism) or there is a compelling commercial reason.
  - 1.6 Individuals caught launching or landing UAVs on Council owned land without the required permission shall be required to cease immediately.
2. **Guidance on Flying Drones and Model Planes**
- 2.1 If the Council does grant permission for launching of drones or UAVs on Council owned land operators must follow the guidelines detailed below.
  - 2.2 For the safety of our staff and other site users, UAV operators must follow the Drone Code. Anyone flying drones on Council sites in breach of this code will be reported to the CAA.
  - 2.3 If you are wanting to fly a drone or model aircraft you now have to be registered. This includes the below:

- Anyone who wishes to fly a drone must pass a theory test to get a flyer ID
- The person that is responsible for the drone or model aircraft must register to get an operator ID

More details regarding registration can be found on the Civil Aviation Authority website

2.4 The following rules must be followed;

- Your drone must weigh under 20kg
- You can't fly above 400 feet in altitude or 500 metres from you horizontally
- Ensure your drone is always in sight
- Always keep away from aircraft, helicopters, airports and airfields
- Use your common sense and fly your aircraft safely
- Any drone weighing more than 250 grams must be registered with the CAA and the drone pilot must complete an online safety test, obtaining a Flyer ID and an Operator ID that should be attached to the Drone.
- You must not fly within 50 metres of people, vehicles, buildings or vessels
- Your drone must not be flown within 150 metres of a congested area or any large group of people such as a concert or sporting event as you may be prosecuted
- If you intend to record in an area where people are, you must inform them before you start, as you will need to respect privacy, or risk being prosecuted

2.5 The UK has many restrictions on where drones can be operated. The Air Navigation Order provides that, without explicit permission from the CAA, drones may not be flown

- within 150 metres of, or over, a congested area;
- within 150 metres of, or over, an organized open-air assembly of 1,000 or more people;
- within 50 metres of any vehicle, structure, or vessel that is not under the control of the operator; or
- within 50 metres of any person not under the control of the operator.

2.6 Operators **Should:**

- be courteous of other park users including people walking dogs;
- keep the UAV in full view at all times (eg. not operated through binoculars, video monitor or smartphone, unless an observer is present);

- fly in daylight hours only;
- cease operation if requested by council staff
- Any breaches of the code of conduct could result in the council terminating your permission to fly UAVs on public land.

2.7 All Town Council owned land covered by this policy;

- Beeston Village Green
- Sunderland Road Recreation Ground
- Fallowfield Recreation Ground
- Bedford Road Recreation Ground
- The Limes Recreation Area
- The Riddy Nature Reserve
- The Pinnacle (Leased)
- Sandy Cemetery

2.8 If your drone is fitted with a camera there are additional regulations you must follow;

- You must not fly within 50 metres of people, vehicles, buildings or vessels
- Your drone must not be flown within 150 metres of a congested area or any large group of people such as a concert or sporting event as you may be prosecuted.
- If you intend to record in an area where people are, you must inform them before you start.

If you intend to use the drone for commercial purposes you must have permission from the CAA and comply with additional laws governing their use. To get guidance on operating permissions for drones see the CAA's website for the latest information and regulations regarding drone use.