

Great Aycliffe Town Council



DRONE AND MODEL AIRCRAFT POLICY

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DRONE AND MODEL AIRCRAFT POLICY

Introduction

- 1 This Policy sets out Town Council guidance for operators of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) or drones, and model aircraft, on or over Town Council owned land and property. For the purpose of this policy, the terms UAV and drone cover all forms of remotely operated aircraft.
- 2 This policy has been drawn up with reference to The Drone and Model Aircraft Code, published by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) (updated January 2023).
- 3 The Town Council will apply this policy and the CAA Code to all instances of drone and model aircraft use on or over its land and property.
- 4 The Town Clerk has overall responsibility for this policy, including keeping it under review.

Who does the policy apply to?

- 5 This policy covers all members of the public flying drones or model aircraft above land or property owned by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

CAA Drone and Model Aircraft Code

- 6 The CAA Code covers all aspects of flying legally, safely and responsibly, and should be read in conjunction with this policy. A copy is attached at Appendix A.
- 7 The CAA Code requires anyone who wishes to fly a drone or model aircraft over 250g to obtain both a Flyer ID and an Operator ID. Anything below 250g which has a camera also requires an Operator ID.
- 8 It is against the law to fly a drone or model aircraft without the required IDs.
- 9 Operators who do not require a Flyer and/or Operator ID are still required to comply with the CAA Code.
- 10 More advanced flying requires additional permission from the CAA, details may be found in the CAA Code.

Council Events

- 11 The CAA Code requires that operators do not fly over people who are in groups or crowded together, including sports events, music festivals, concerts, parties, carnivals and fetes.
- 12 This requirement will apply to all of the Town Council's programme of special events, such as Fun-in-the-Parks and the Fireworks Display, and any outside events which have permission to use the Town Council's land, such as school sports and football events on the Oakleaf fields.
- 13 The Town Council requests that anyone wishing to fly a drone or model aircraft first makes enquiries regarding any events which may be taking place before operating their equipment.

Retrieval of Equipment

- 14 Operators who make a forced or crash landing on private land are required under the CAA Code to ask permission of the landowner before retrieving their drone or model aircraft. Such requests should be addressed, in the first instance, to the Town Clerk.
- 15 Any unattended drones or UAVs found on Council land or property will be dealt with under separate safety and security guidelines, which are issued to staff.