



The Flying of Model Planes and Drones on Council Land Policy

The Town Council requires permission to be obtained for public flying of model aircraft/drones on its Council land. Decisions to grant permission are unlikely to be granted for most areas due to the need to consider the needs of many other people using public space.

The regulations for recreational model aeroplane/drone flights are contained within the Air Navigation Order 2016 (ANO) which is the primary document for all aviation regulations within the United Kingdom. In order to keep the regulations at a proportionate level for these small drones, a set of specific, simpler, regulations apply to aircraft that have a mass of 20kg or less (which are termed 'small unmanned aircraft' within the Air Navigation Order).

In simple terms, these regulations state that: -

- The operator is responsible for flying the model plane/drone in a safe manner.
- The operator must keep the model plane/drone in direct sight at all times while it is flying, to ensure it does not collide with anything.
- The operator must not endanger anyone, or anything with your model plane/drone, including the any articles that drop from it.
- The operator must not fly more than 400ft above the surface.
- The operator must be aware if their model aeroplane/drone weights more than 7 kg, additional rules apply if flown in certain types of airspace.

Collection of Images via First Person View

Model Planes/Drones that are fitted with video cameras often provide an opportunity to downlink 'live' video to the operator, either via a mobile phone, tablet computer or other screen, or even through video goggles – this capability provides the operator with a pseudo 'pilots eye view' from the drone itself and is generally given the term 'First Person View' (FPV).

However, the law [at Air Navigation Order article 94(3)] requires that the person in charge of a model aeroplane/drone must maintain direct visual contact with the aircraft which is sufficient to monitor its flight path so that collisions may be avoided. This is obviously not possible if that person is wearing video goggles or otherwise constantly monitoring a display.

Therefore, 'First Person View' flight is only permitted if the activity has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and a General Exemption has been issued which allows an element of 'First Person View' flight to be conducted.

The Town Council will request a copy of the General Exemption prior to granting any permission to fly a model aeroplane/drone.

Guidance on the exemption and the conditions that must be observed whilst employing this privilege.

If you wish to conduct a 'First Person View' flight which cannot be accommodated within the terms of this General Exemption, then you will need to apply to the Civil Aviation Authority for an exemption to do so.

Note: Images captured by a camera and displayed on a flat screen afford the pilot little by way of depth perception and no peripheral vision. This can make it difficult for the pilot to accurately judge speed and distance and to maintain sufficient awareness of the area surrounding the aircraft to effectively 'see and avoid' obstacles and other aircraft.

The use of 'First Person View' equipment is not an acceptable mitigation for Beyond Visual Line of Sight flight unless the relevant operator has received a specific approval to do so from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Drone registration

Registration and remote pilot competency requirements will come into force in November 2019.

Further information on the Air Navigation Order 2016 and 13 March 2019 updates can be found via the link below:

<https://www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft-and-drones/>

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