



Bracknell Town Council

The flying of model planes and drones on Council land

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 the many other people using public space.

Rules for flying, even with permission granted, are governed by Air Navigation Order 2009 (SI 2009/3015). Recreational users must comply with requirements about how and where they fly. For an aircraft with a mass of 20 kg or less, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requires that:

1. The operation must not endanger anyone or anything.
2. The aircraft must be kept within the visual line of sight.
3. Small unmanned aircraft that are being used for surveillance purposes are subject to restrictions with regard to the minimum distances they can fly near people or properties (50m).
4. CAA permission is also required for all flights that are being conducted for aerial photography work
5. The 'remote pilot' has responsibility for satisfying him/herself that the flight can be conducted safely.

The CAA also says care should be taken about the collection of images of identifiable individuals, even inadvertently, when using surveillance cameras mounted on a small unmanned surveillance aircraft, as these will be subject to the Data Protection Act. This Act contains requirements concerning the collection, storage and use of such images, Small Unmanned Aircraft operators need to ensure that they are complying with these requirements. It is possible otherwise that individuals might be able to bring actions under existing legislation relating to injury, trespass, privacy, nuisance and data protection.