

Hamfallow Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

Background

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Hamfallow Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

Definition

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social well-being. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area.

Action

Full Council and all Committees' of Hamfallow Parish Council's will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

The Council will via its website and social media help to raise awareness of environmental issues and promote conservation projects in conjunction with appropriate bodies and residents.

The Council will consider sustainability and biodiversity when engaging with the planning system.

The Council where appropriate will aim to engage with businesses and the public regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.

The council will carefully word any specification of ground maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, while reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.

The Council will manage its own operational duties to reduce its carbon footprint.

Adopted 07/03/24.

Next Review 2025 (2yr)

ACTION PLAN

| SITE / OBJECTIVE | ACTION | OUTCOME | TARGET (Years) | REPORTING / PUBLICITY |
|----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|-----------------------|
| Whole council area | Raise local awareness of biodiversity. | Gain local support for action. | Ongoing | Social media, website |
| Protect and support biodiversity | <p>Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity. (e.g. Bird friendly trees and shrubs like Holly, Pyracantha etc.)</p> <p>Encourage the management of existing orchards e.g. maintenance and replanting schemes. Also support the planting and establishment of new orchards.</p> | Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species | Ongoing | Social media, website |
| Meetings | If appropriate sub committees members may meet via Zoom or Teams | Reduced mileage and so reduced Carbon footprint | Ongoing | As Applicable |

Further reading

Complying with the Biodiversity Duty (www.gov.uk/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty)