

Broughton Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by S.40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Broughton 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 council 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.

1 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 of 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 & social wellbeing. 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.

2 Aims and Objectives

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

The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular, the Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- Consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications
- Manage its land using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity
- Support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact/nature positive practices
- Encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind

3 Planning Applications

The Council will:

- When commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats

- Support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider if the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications
- Consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain

4 Land management

The Council will:

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as required via its article in each addition of the Broughton Newsletter
- Manage our land in a biodiversity friendly manner (to avoid use of weedkillers/pesticides), and to encourage pollinator growth where possible
- Involve the community in biodiversity projects on its own land including tree planting/wildflower meadows/bird box making where appropriate.

5 Monitoring

This policy was adopted in March 2024 and will be reviewed in two years, or sooner should legislation require it. A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually, with reference to the original biodiversity audit to show progress/updates.

Action Plan

<u>Site/Aim</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Target (Years)</u>	<u>Reporting/publicity</u>
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity	Gain local support for improved biodiversity	Ongoing	Newsletter/social media
Protect and support biodiversity on Parish Council land including allotments	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity	Connect and diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Newsletter/social media
Common/other open spaces	Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. Work with Cumberland Council on verge management, favouring biodiversity Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after, making it clear what is expected e.g. no chemicals	Sustain and enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats	Ongoing	

The built landscape	<p>Ensure that planning consultations are considered with biodiversity in mind.</p> <p>Encourage hedgehog/small animal corridors with permeable boundaries</p>	<p>Protecting and enhancing habitats.</p> <p>Extending habitats</p>	Ongoing	
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	<p>Raise awareness of importance of gardens for habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the Parish Newsletter.</p>	Promote biodiversity	Ongoing	Website/Social Media

Adopted Feb 2024

Review: Annually to see most recent review date please visit <https://broughtonparishcouncil.co.uk/policies-procedures/>