

WOOLASTON PARISH COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT/POLICY

In accordance with Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, (as updated by section 102 of the EA 2021), Woolaston Parish Council has a duty to show regard for conserving biodiversity in all their actions. The council must from time to time, consider what action the Council can take, to further the general biodiversity objective.

According to Defra, Biodiversity is the variety of all life on earth including all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpins economic prosperity, and contributes to locally distinctive and sustainable communities.

Conserving biodiversity is vital in responding to climate change and in supporting key ecosystem services such as food production, flood management, pollination and provision of clean air and water.

This duty also enables parish and town councils to spend funds on conserving biodiversity.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this policy is to work towards conserving, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Woolaston. Woolaston Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

The Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- considering the potential impact on biodiversity when responding to planning applications
- managing its land using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity
- supporting local businesses and Council operations in adopting low-impact practices
- supporting residents and local organisations in activities that enhance and promote biodiversity

Actions

Planning

The Council will

- consider sustainability and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications and will support designs that benefit biodiversity.
- consider the biodiversity net gain that each proposed development may deliver

Land Management

The Council will

- consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity when managing its open spaces (including the Community Orchard and Woolaston Common), through maintaining planted trees, planting native shrubs and trees, and encouraging wildflowers.
- consider biodiversity when managing the churchyard and cemetery.
- source sustainable materials when procuring supplies.

- Ensure grounds maintenance contracts protect the natural environment while maintaining acceptable standards
- manage its own operational duties in ways that reduce its carbon footprint.

Local Community

The Council will

- aim to develop environmentally friendly areas for residents.
- help to raise awareness of environmental issues and promote conservation projects in conjunction with appropriate bodies and residents.
- engage with businesses and the public on how they can support biodiversity in the community
- involve the public in biodiversity projects on council land where feasible, including activities such as tree planting.