

DRAFT
Parwich Parish Council BIODIVERSITY policy.

Introduction

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, Parwich Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) 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 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.

Aims and objectives

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

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 and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- support other organisations within the parish / town to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

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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 whether 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.

Land and property management

The Council will:

- consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work, paying attention to the Government's regulations for plant protection products.
- take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use
- consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local community

The Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

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APPENDIX 1

ACTION PLAN

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET
Awareness of responsibilities.	Maintain map of Council managed land.	Available for reference. (see Appendix 2)	Ongoing
Parsons Croft, Nethergreen, Church Green, Playground.	Mowing. Consider biodiversity when arranging frequency and areas to be cut.	Reflect decisions in contract.	Every three years
Tennis court boundary, Parsons. Croft Car Park	Vegetation control. Consider biodiversity when arranging frequency and application method.	Reflect decisions in contract.	Every three years
Parsons. Croft Car Park	Hedge cutting. Consider biodiversity when arranging frequency. In particular to avoid bird nesting season.	Reflect decisions in contract.	Annual
Sheepwash, Jubilee Pond, brooks.	Vegetation control. Consider biodiversity when arranging frequency of contractor or volunteer activity. In particular to avoid damaging wildlife habitat during spawning.	Reflect decisions in contract and/or activity planning.	As required
Pump Hill.	Woodland management. Consider biodiversity when planning contractor or volunteer activity. In particular support wildlife habitats through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creation of stumpery from felled trees - provision of bird and/or bat boxes - selective "rewilding". 	Reflect decisions in contract and/or activity planning.	Ongoing
Trees (in general)	Limit tree work to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safety issues. - maintenance work advised by a qualified arborist. 	Reflect decisions in contract and/or activity planning.	Ongoing
Agricultural land	Tenancy agreements. Consider biodiversity when selecting tenants and wording tenancy agreements.	Reflect decisions in tenancy agreements.	On renewal

Derived from *Model policy provided by DALC 30 Oct 2023.*

Adopted *March 2024.* Reviewed *tbd* Due for review *May 2025.*

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APPENDIX 2

Parwich village land

Parish Council owned.

Village greens registered to the Parish Council

Common land registered to the Parish Council

This is schematic only.
For more accurate boundaries please refer to original documents.



Rented fields

This is schematic only.
For more accurate boundaries please refer to original documents.

