



Southam Parish Council - Biodiversity Policy

Adopted on 12th December 2023

About the Policy

In accordance with Section 40 of the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006 updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 this Council will from time to time consider what action the authority can take to further improve the general biodiversity objectives. This duty also means that the Council may spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

Definition

Biodiversity is the whole variety of life on Earth, all species of plants and animals, their genetic variation and the habitats and ecosystems they are part of. It includes not just the rare or the threatened but also the wildlife that is familiar to us in the places where we live and work.

Aims and Objectives

When carrying out decisions and actions the Council will consider their Biodiversity Duty and aim to make improvements for future generations by carrying out the following actions:

- **Planning**
 - Will support site and building design which benefits biodiversity through conservation and integration of new or existing habitats
 - Will protect sensitive habitats from development and consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife
 - Will consider light pollution and ecology issues
 - Consider what each development might contribute to biodiversity net gain

- **Land and Property**
 - Will carry out an audit of its landholdings to identify areas for improvement and draw up an Action Plan
 - Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of open spaces including the creation of new habitats
 - Ensure maintenance contracts are commensurate with the Duty to protect biodiversity
 - Source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use
 - Consider biodiversity issues and implementation of changes when managing its buildings
 - Raise funding to implement biodiversity projects

- **Local Community**
 - Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues
 - Engage with local businesses and residents involving them in biodiversity projects

Work with neighbours and other agencies to safeguard biodiversity along the footpath network

Provide advice on the creation of habitats and consider grant applications to assist i.e. birdbox making, bee-keeping, wildflower meadows, tree/hedge planting

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Action Plan will be published at the Annual Parish Assembly and input invited.