



KIPPAX PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Approved: 18th April 2024

Minute Reference: 163/FC/2324f.

Review date: May 2025

M Eyre

Signed by Chairman, Councillor Martin Eyre

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, Kippax 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 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 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 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.
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

The Council will:

1. Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions it makes in council and committee meetings. It will seek to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity as a result of the council's activities and will identify opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable.
2. Source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use
3. Encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity through grants we make to local groups.
4. Communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and social media.
5. The parish council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.
6. The parish council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as part of its leadership role within the local community.
7. The parish council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. It will 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.
8. Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of 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.
9. Take special care to ensure that the work undertaken by the Parish Council or any contractors, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
10. Monitor its internal policies and processes to enhance biodiversity.