



BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Bugbrooke Parish Council recognises its responsibility under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, **as amended by the Environment Act 2021**, which places a duty on public authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This includes habitats, species, and ecological networks at local, regional and national levels.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

Bugbrooke Parish Council is committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the parish and to integrating biodiversity considerations into all relevant decision-making, including land management, planning responses and community engagement.

To help Bugbrooke Parish Council meet its Biodiversity policy, the Parish 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;
- consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications;
- as far as is possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages;
- adopt beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work;
- special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment;
- wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues;
- where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wild-flower meadows, birdbox making;

- communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.
- Consider and, where feasible, support opportunities for nature recovery within the parish identified in the West Northamptonshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Bugbrooke Parish Council will review this policy periodically and update it as necessary to reflect changes in legislation, local priorities and best practice.

Signed _____ Chair 11th May 2026