

Parish Councils & the Biodiversity Duty

The Duty



Under the Environment Act 2021 public authorities must:

- Consider what can be done to conserve & enhance biodiversity in England. First consideration of what action to take for biodiversity must be done by 1 January 2024.
- Soon after this date policies & specific objectives must be agreed and review at least every 5 years.
- Act to deliver your policies & achieve your objectives.

Policies



- Create a Biodiversity Policy showing how the Council would protect, record, enhance & promote an understanding of biodiversity within the Parish.
- These biodiversity actions can be included in the Parish's Environmental Policy.
- Consider reporting regularly on your delivery of these policies.
- You could promote these policies on your webpages and social media to demonstrate your green credentials.
- Suggested actions you could consider are shown on the next page.

Wildlife Policy



Cropwell Bishop Parish Council

WILDLIFE POLICY

Agreed & Adopted at Full Council Meeting 3rd November 2020

General Policy Statement:

In accordance with the Duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, People responsible for activities, events and developments within the Parish of Cropwell Bishop are required to consider the effects on wildlife and biodiversity to preserve and, where possible, enhance the wildlife and biodiversity of the local area.

Please refer to the following Guidance Note:

Cropwell Bishop Parish Council – Guidance note.

SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING THE WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY AROUND CROPWELL BISHOP

Cropwell Bishop is located in the picturesque Vale of Belvoir and enjoys the benefits of a village community within a rural setting. Wildlife and Biodiversity form an important part of our community and must be preserved and enhanced.

This guidance note is to assist:

- Those responsible for organising and taking part in local activities and events,
- Those responsible for planning and construction of developments
- Residents wishing to be more aware of their responsibilities towards wildlife and biodiversity.

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

What will the Parish Council do?

Potential Actions You Could Take



- Consider biodiversity when managing land & buildings:
 - Create and manage wildflower areas, woodlands, hedgerows and ponds
 - Review grass mowing/ hedge cutting frequency & timing
 - Reduce/ eliminate the use of herbicides & pesticides
 - Erect bird/ bat/ insect/ hedgehog boxes or other enhancements.
- Carry out surveys for key species & habitats.
- Include biodiversity policies in Community Led Plans & Neighbourhood Plans.
- Include biodiversity responses when commenting on planning applications.
- Consider biodiversity needs if creating bylaws.
- Promote biodiversity within the community by holding wildlife activities/events, appoint tree wardens & work closely with other stakeholders, for example allotment holders, sports club, groups, residents, landowners and neighbouring councils.



Useful Links

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty>
- <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy>
- <https://nottsbag.org.uk/>
- <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/environment/outdoors/nature-conservation/>
- <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parishes-and-communities/biodiversity-information-for-parishes-and-communities>
- https://www.bbowt.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-08/Parish_Wildlife_Toolkit.pdf
- <https://www.slcc.co.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/GN-124-Environmental-Planning-Guidance-31-May-2023.pdf>