



## Nailsworth Town Council

### Biodiversity Policy

#### 1. 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, Nailsworth Town Council will in exercising all its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

This duty also means that Nailsworth Town Council has the legal power to spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

#### 2. 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. Studies have shown this value also goes further. It is the building block of our 'ecosystems'. These provide us 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.

#### 3. Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Nailsworth.

All committees of Nailsworth Town Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required. These considerations are stated in the Town Council's report template which is used when decisions are brought to its Committees and the Council.

In particular, Nailsworth Town 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 & council operations in the adoption of low impact practices.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

#### 4. Actions

##### 4.1 Planning applications

- The 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.



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- 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.
- It will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- It will include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

#### 4.2 Land and property management

- The council will carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings.
- The council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity when managing open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices for cutting and removing vegetation, application of chemicals and the 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.
- The council will consider biodiversity issues and how best to implement changes when managing its buildings.

#### 4.3 Local community

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

#### 4.4 Partners

- Nailsworth Town Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.
- It will review 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.

### 5. Strategic position

Nailsworth Town Council's Biodiversity Policy supports the Council's strategic visions and is in line with the;

- Open Spaces Policy
- Climate Emergency declaration (Minute 2019/057) and
- Environment Policy

### 6. Monitoring and review



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The Environment committee and the Recreation and Amenities committee have responsibility for the implementation of the Policy and will agree open space priorities and targets for recommendation to Full Council. This Policy will be reviewed and updated according to strategic, environmental and recreational priorities annually.

Policy Title:		Biodiversity Policy			Last updated by:
Version, Date and Change History:		Version 1.0	July 2024	Adopted 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 (Minute 2024/0x68)	
		Review Date:	March 2025		
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