

Drayton Bassett Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

Date Created	Date Adopted	Date Revised	Review Date
July 2025	Sept 2025		

1. Background

In the legislation for Policy Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils, to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

This means that Drayton Bassett Parish Council (DBPC) must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance requires all public authorities to consider what action to take for biodiversity.

They must agree their policies and objectives and must reconsider the selected actions within five years of completing their previous consideration, or more frequently if they choose.

2. Definition of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them. Biodiversity matters because it supports the vital benefits humans get from the natural environment. It contributes to the economy, health and well-being, and it enriches our lives.

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 well being. 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.

3. Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the council's area.

Drayton Bassett Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular DBPC 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 / positive practices
- Support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

4. Actions

Planning Applications

Drayton Bassett Parish Council will:

- When commenting on a planning application, 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 and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all planning applications.
- Consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain

Land and Property Management

Drayton Bassett Parish Council will:

- Carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings
- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regard to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work
- Take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards does not harm the natural, environment.
- Source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Councils use.
- Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local Community

Drayton Bassett Parish Council will:

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website, Facebook pages and Newsletters.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, no cut areas.

Partners

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

Appendix 1 – Biodiversity Action Plan

Site/Objective	Action	Outcome	Target (years)
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity	Connect and diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing
The Built Landscape	Assess planning applications to ensure that there is no net loss to natural habitat and protection of significant trees / hedges. Encourage hedgehog / small animal highways with permeable boundaries	Protecting / enhancing habitats Extending habitats	Ongoing
Village Park	Sympathetically maintain hedging Leave some areas unmown Only use environmentally friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions Ensure future planting is resistant to climate change	Food sources and cover Encourage insects Sustain and enhance natural habitats	Ongoing
Other open spaces owned by Parish Council	Sympathetically maintain hedging Leave some areas un-	Food sources and cover	Ongoing

	mown Only use environmentally friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions	Encourage insects Sustain and enhance natural habitats	
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish. Hold volunteer gardening days to manage and protect planting areas	Engagement / ownership of biodiversity. Engagement / ownership of biodiversity.	Ongoing