

# **Lutton Parish Council Biodiversity Policy**

## **Background**

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environmental Act 2021, Lutton Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as the council), which has any function 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 function, 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

## **Aims and objectives.**

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

The full council, and any committees of the council will consider the 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 in 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 of Lutton to manage that areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind

- Support residence and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity

## **Actions**

### Planning applications

The council will:

When commencing 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 and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife and respect of ALL applications

Include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

### Land and property management

The council will:

Carry out a biodiversity audit of its land holdings

Closer to the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regard to cutting and removing the vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work, paying attention to the government's regulations for plant protection products.

Take special care in the specification of ground maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment

Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

### Local Community

The council will:

Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.

Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community, and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.

Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land, including for example, tree planting, wildflower meadows, bird box making.

## Partners

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

It will review any local nature, recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected sites, strategies in respect of local sites of specific scientific interest (SSSI's) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

## Monitoring

This policy was adopted on 4th march 2024 (2024/03/016) and will be reviewed in two years, or sooner should the legislation dictate, at the annual meeting. A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually, with reference to the original biodiversity audit and to show progress.

### ACTION PLAN

Site /objective	Action	Outcome	Target	Reporting/publicity
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity	Gain local support for actions	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media and website
Protect and support, biodiversity	Encourage sustainable planting to support biodiversity	Connect and diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Mapping
Cemetery and Churchyard. ( not the responsibility of Luton Council)	Liaise with the parish parochial council to encourage the adoption of a plan to support wildlife and diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way that enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance	Increase the diversity of wildflowers, encouraging insects, especially butterflies and bees	Ongoing  Establish local wild flower record on council website during 2024, to be continuous updated	Wildflower information on Council website and social media

<p>Recreation, ground</p>	<p>Sympathetically maintain hedging</p> <p>Use only environmentally friendly pesticides were absolutely necessary and only in ideal conditions</p>	<p>Food, source and cover</p> <p>Sustain and enhance natural habitats</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Not needed</p>
<p>Verges and The Old Playing Field</p>	<p>Encourage residence to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. <i>Litter picking kits already provided and stored in village hall. New dog bin located by Old Playing Field</i></p> <p>Encourage the Luton in Need Charity to increase biodiversity in the Old Playing Field</p> <p>Work with the county council on verge management, favouring, biodiversity, but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety. <i>One areas of verge already designated as wildflower areas, also traditionally spring bulb areas</i></p> <p>Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after, making it clear what is expected e.g. peat free compost and no chemicals</p>	<p>Protecting habitats</p> <p>Enhancing habitats</p> <p>Enhancing habitats</p> <p>Community involvement ensures regular attention</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Newsletter and social media</p>

<p>Increase community awareness of biodiversity</p>	<p>Encourage local farmers to participate</p> <p>Ask residence for their views on what they would like done to conserve biodiversity within the parish</p> <p>Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife</p>	<p>Promote biodiversity</p> <p>Engagement of Community</p> <p>Promote by diversity</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Website and social media</p>
<p>Support community projects</p>	<p>Encourage the community to be involved in enhancing Lutton's biodiversity</p> <p><i>Children have helped with bulb planting and wildflower seed scattering</i></p>	<p>Raising awareness and improving social cohesion</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Social media Newsletter</p>
<p>The Built Landscape</p>	<p>Consider whether planning applications will be detrimental to Lutton's current biodiversity</p> <p>Encourage hedgehog and small animal highways with permeable boundaries</p>	<p>Protecting and enhancing habitat</p> <p>Extending habitat</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Minutes</p>