



BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted 17th September 2024

Minute Ref: FA25 34 (i)

Review due September 2027

HADDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL'S DUTY

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, Haddenham Parish Council will exercise its duty to the conserve and enhance biodiversity within the parish.

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 and social wellbeing.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider 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 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 / nature positive practices.
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

COUNCIL COMMITMENTS

Planning applications

The 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 and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- continue to include policies in support of biodiversity within our neighbourhood plan.

Land and property management

The Council will:

- carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings.
- consider 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 removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- take special care in the management of grounds maintenance to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use
- 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, birdbox 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 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.

Biodiversity Offset Site

The Council will endeavour to register an area of land which can be used a Biodiversity offset area to ensure any Biodiversity offset which cannot be achieved at site level, is retained wherever possible within the village.



BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

This action plan is not an exhaustive list and is a 'live' document which encompasses the Council's commitment to Biodiversity in all aspects of its operation.

| SITE / OBJECTIVE | ACTION | OUTCOME | TARGET (Years) | REPORTING /PUBLICITY |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------|--|
| Whole council Membership | Raise local awareness of biodiversity through its Committees and Full Council. | Gain local support for action. | Ongoing | Newsletter, social media, website / business plan NHP |
| New Memorial Garden | Development of the new Memorial Garden will include consideration of protecting and increasing biodiversity throughout the design and build process. | To create a memorial garden which encourages wildlife and biodiversity which is a beautiful place to visit and remember loved ones. | 3 years | APM / website/ social media / Business plan Newsletter |
| Closed Churchyard | Adopt a plan to support wildlife and biodiversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience calm and remembrance. Leave some areas unmown. Leave leaf litter and dead vegetation in and area to encourage invertebrates Additional planting to encourage insects. Identify sites for bird boxes | Increase the biodiversity of the areas. Encouraging more insects particularly bees and butterflies. Increase the number of invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, small mammals. Encourage more birds to nest. | Ongoing | Diocese / APM/ newsletter/ social media/ website/ volunteer groups |
| Woodways Airfield Recreation grounds | Sympathetically maintain and improve hedging. Replace and wherever possible increase the tree canopy of the area with native species. | Food sources and cover Encourages insects. Sustain and enhance natural habitats. | Ongoing | APM/ website/ social media Business Plan Newsletter |

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| | <p>Maintain the football pitch areas in line with FA guidelines and using, environmentally friendly herbicides / fertilisers in areas where absolutely necessary.</p> <p>Leave some areas unmown.</p> | Improve species variety | | |
| Community Orchard | Adopt a management plan. | Sustain and enhance natural habitats. | Ongoing | Newsletter website Business plan Social Media APM |
| Snakemoor Nature Reserve | Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. | Encourage pesticide free growth of crops and using natural plants for pest control. | | |
| Allotments | Continue to improve verge management, favouring biodiversity but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety. | Improve the diversity of natural species | | |
| Country Park | Encourage residents and volunteer groups to adopt areas to look after, making it clear the objective to increase the ecology of the area – using peat free compost and no chemicals. | Increase the number of insects particularly bees and butterflies | | |
| Verges | Leaving selected area unmown | | | |
| Village Greens | Improve the diversity of wild flowers through cut and collect mowing and planting of natural species bulbs. | | | |
| Other Council maintained open spaces | | | | |
| Ponds | Adopt a management plan | Sustain and enhance natural habitats. | Ongoing | Newsletter website |
| Church End | Continue to improve the pond biodiversity and ecology by using environmentally friendly practices. | Manage pests wherever possible in environmentally sound way. | | Business plan |
| Banks Road | | | | Social Media |
| Rudds Lane | Discourage the use of excessive feeding of the birds and wildlife bread, and promote the use of seeds, berries etc. | Improve the diversity of natural species | | APM |
| Adopted SUDS | Maintain the vegetation around the pond areas and introduce different plant varieties. | Increase the number of insects particularly bees and butterflies . | | |

| SITE / OBJECTIVE | ACTION | OUTCOME | TARGET (Years) | REPORTING / PUBLICITY |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|---|
| The Built Landscape | <p>Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Ensure all relevant applications adhere to Biodiversity Net Gain legislation.</p> <p>Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries</p> | <p>Protecting/enhancing habitats</p> <p>Minimising harm of new developments on local ecology and biodiversity</p> <p>To allow small mammals access to more land.</p> | Ongoing | <p>Newsletter</p> <p>website</p> <p>Business plan</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>APM / NHP</p> |
| Light pollution | <p>Adopt a dark skies policy</p> <p>Promote the use of dimmed streetlights and the use of light shields for bats where necessary.</p> <p>Ensure lights are turned off late at night.</p> | To reduce light disturbance to nocturnal animals and insects. | Ongoing | NHP/Business plan |
| Increasing community awareness and Support Community Projects | <p>Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas.</p> <p>Work in partnership with schools / youth club to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them.</p> <p>Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.</p> <p>Facilitate local forums to promote awareness of land management and biodiversity issues</p> | <p>Extending habitats.</p> <p>Promote the awareness of biodiversity.</p> <p>Engagement of residents regarding local ecology and encourage positive changes to the management of their own gardens etc.</p> <p>Exchanging of ideas and best practices.</p> | Ongoing | <p>Climate Forums</p> <p>Volunteer groups</p> <p>APM</p> <p>Newsletter/ Social Media</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Youth Club</p> |