

Frinton & Walton Town Council Biodiversity Policy

1. Introduction

Frinton & Walton Town Council recognises the importance of biodiversity and is committed to conserving and enhancing the natural environment within our community. This policy outlines our approach to integrating biodiversity considerations into our decision-making processes and daily operations

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a duty on public authorities in England to consider biodiversity in their decision-making processes. These are some of the practical ways in which local authorities can integrate biodiversity. Not all these examples are functions of a town/parish council but rather gives a wider context as to how all local authorities including district and county councils can all play a part in achieving its obligations.

1. **Policy Development:** Incorporate biodiversity goals into local policies and strategies.
2. **Planning System:** Ensure that planning applications and developments consider biodiversity impacts.
3. **Land and Building Management:** Maintain and enhance biodiversity on public lands and buildings.
4. **Woodlands and Nature Reserves:** Protect and manage these areas to support diverse species.
5. **Public Spaces:** Enhance biodiversity in parks, gardens, and other public spaces.
6. **Community Amenities:** Integrate biodiversity considerations into the management of sports grounds, cemeteries, etc.
7. **Waste and Pollution Management:** Implement practices that reduce pollution and support biodiversity.
8. **Energy and Water Management:** Use sustainable practices that benefit biodiversity.
9. **Wood and Plant Products:** Source these products sustainably to protect ecosystems.
10. **Infrastructure Development:** Design roads, buildings, and flood defences with biodiversity in mind.
11. **Procurement Decisions:** Choose suppliers and products that support biodiversity.
12. **Economic, Environmental, and Social Programs:** Align these programs with biodiversity conservation goals.

By following these steps, public authorities can effectively contribute to conserving and enhancing biodiversity in their areas.

2. Objectives

- To protect and enhance local biodiversity.
- To ensure that biodiversity is considered in all council activities and decisions.
- To raise awareness and engage the community in biodiversity conservation efforts.

3. Policy Commitments

3.1 Policy Development and Implementation

- Integrate biodiversity considerations into all council policies, strategies, and plans.
- Ensure that biodiversity is a key factor in the planning and development process.

3.2 Land and Building Management

- The Town Council will, as far as is possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and 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.

3.3 Community Engagement

- The Town Council works closely with allotment holders of the allotments on the Council's land to promote biodiversity awareness and education within the allotment community.
- Encourage community participation in biodiversity projects and initiatives.

3.4 Sustainable Practices

- The Town Council works closely with nominated contractors of our Open Spaces areas to ensure they are maintained with due respect to biodiversity.
- The Town Council ensures that its waste management practices comply with local, national, and international environmental regulations.

3.5 Planning & Development

- The Town 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. It will support protection of sensitive habits from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.

3.6 Procurement

- Where feasible, the Town Council will make procurement decisions that favour suppliers and products supporting biodiversity conservation.

4. Implementation and Monitoring

- In the decision-making process for all activities of the Council, the Town Council will consider how its decisions are meeting the Bio Diversity Policy.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years to ensure it remains relevant and effective in conserving and enhancing biodiversity within the parish area.

Policy agreed by:	Full Council
Meeting date:	21.11.2024
Review Frequency:	3 yearly
Next review due:	November 2027