

BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted: 21/10/24

Review: October 2026

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, Bitterley Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions 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 functions, to further the general biodiversity objective. This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds on conserving biodiversity.

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. 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. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but 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.

Bitterley Parish Council is a small rural council with no land and few resources. The councils aim must be to use these limited resources to best effect.

Aims

To support local businesses, organisations and individuals in the Parish area

Act as a conduit for information which will raise awareness of biodiversity issues to local businesses, organisations and individuals. This could be done through the use of website, noticeboards or leaflet drops.

Consider reasonable request to work with organisations within or outside the parish to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the Parish.

Consider biodiversity when considering planning applications.

The council, when commenting on planning applications, will look positively at site and building designs that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.

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.

Bitterley Parish Council will proactively follow up and seek the help of Shropshire County Council Planning department to enforce mandated biodiversity planning conditions and S106's that it feels are not being adequately implemented and maintained by developers

Consider biodiversity when looking at grant applications

Use the grant application policy to help applicants embed and consider biodiversity when applying and implementing grants.

Grants should seek to enhance biodiversity and not damage it in anyway

Monitoring

This policy was adopted on 21st October 2024 and will be reviewed in two years or sooner should legislation dictate.

Action Plan

Objective	Action	Outcome	Target Date	Publicity
Planning	Create a register of planned biodiversity improvements	To see if biodiversity conditions are adhered to and to check on results	October 24	Website
Grants	Ensure that grant application form emphasises the need of biodiversity improvement	Grant requests outline biodiversity improvements	Grant Form review March 25	Website