

Brampton Ash Parish Council : Biodiversity Policy

Context: 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, Brampton Ash Parish Council ("the Council") must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take in support of promoting and maintaining biodiversity.

Definition and Benefits of Biodiversity: According to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is the building block of our ecosystems that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services which support our economic and social wellbeing. 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. Biodiversity also provides an important cultural service, enriching our lives and personal wellbeing through the enjoyment of nature.

Purpose of This Policy: The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework which the Council can use to protect, sustain and enhance biodiversity within the Parish.

General Best Practices: Where appropriate and possible the Council will seek to improve, protect and sustain biodiversity by:

- Supporting and encouraging:
 - use of gardens as habitats for wildlife;
 - planting and maintenance of appropriate wildlife-friendly hedges, flowers, and trees;
 - installation and maintenance of bird boxes;
 - leaving of leaf litter and dead vegetation as small wild animal and invertebrate habitats;
 - leaving some grassed areas unmown;
 - removal of human-generated rubbish and litter;
 - use of peat-free compost.

- Discouraging:
 - littering;
 - dog fouling;
 - use of agricultural chemicals and pesticides;
 - use of floodlighting.

Planning Applications: When considering planning applications, the Council will take account of:

- Site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats;
- Whether developments would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife;
- What each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain;
- Proposals for permeable boundaries and the inclusion of hedgehog/small animal highways.

Land Management: In the context of managing its own land, the common land, and open spaces of the Parish, the Council will strive to:

- Adopt beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of 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 grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.

Procurement: The Council will strive to source sustainable goods and materials when procuring supplies.

Community Engagement: The Council will seek to promote biodiversity within the community by:

- Raising awareness of biodiversity issues to local business and residents through the use of its website, news bulletins, and other media where appropriate
- Where appropriate, involving the community in biodiversity projects on its land, including for example tree planting, wildflower meadow projects, birdbox making.

Partnerships: The Council will strive to:

- Work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the Parish.
- 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 could become more involved in implementing the recommendations of such strategies.

Adoption & Monitoring:

Policy adopted by Brampton Ash Parish Council by resolution on 11/05/2026, minute no 25/26-27
To be reviewed bi-annually (or more frequently should future legislation dictate).

SignedS Power.....Chair.....Date:11/05/2026.....