SAPPERTON PARISH COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

BACKGROUND

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, SAPPERTON 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 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.
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 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 important cultural services, enriching our lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

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 / town to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

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.
• include policies in support of biodiversity within a neighbourhood plan, should the Council create one.

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 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 contracts 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

LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Council will:

• raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and local Whatsapp groups

• engage with local businesses, farmers 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 and preserving wildflower margins.

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.

MONITORING

This policy was adopted on.....12th March 24 @ PC Meeting.....and will be reviewed in two years or sooner should legislation dictate / each year at the Annual Meeting.

A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually, with reference to the original biodiversity audit to show progress.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

SITE/OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity	Gain local support for action	Ongoing	Social media, website
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity Install and maintain bird boxes as required.	Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Mapping
Cemetery/Churchyard 1. FRAMPTON MANSELL 2. SAPPERTON	Frampton Mansell Churchyard: PC liaises with PCC re mowing /Additional plantings. A plan has already been established to support wildlife and diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance. Parish Council is responsible for maintenance of St Kenelm Churchyard as closed. PC liaises with PCC re Cemetery – areas left wild Leave leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as habitat	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources Half mowed and half left wild at a time = Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. Grass cutting plan implemented Encouraging insects particularly butterflies and bees. Encouraging invertebrates		
Frampton Mansell Playground	Sympathetic maintenance - Leaving some areas unmown. Pesticide-free Area	Safeguarding the environment and health of children	Current strategies	

SITE/OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Common / other open spaces	Adopt a management plan. Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. Work with the county council on verge management, favouring biodiversity but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety. Encourage residents in the use of peat free compost and no chemicals. Contractors aware of what is expected - No peat and no chemicals.	Sustain and enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats. Regular attention to safety aspects re grass height/highway visibility Encouraging community involvement in enhancing biodiversity Map of Areas to be mown supplied and number of cuts specified. Current contractor sources organic compost locally.	ongoing	Via Whatapp posts/Website Via Whatapp posts/Website Grass Cutting Reviews published on website
The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the CDC Biodiversity Policy, CDC Local Plan, and Neighbourhood Plan where there is one. Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries Installation of Bat and Swift Boxe	Protecting/enhancing habitats. Ensuring development within the AONB is in line with current policies and protections put in place by range of stakeholders Extending habitats. Encouraging Community Involvement	Ongoing	

SITE/OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish	Promote Biodiversity		
	Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine.	Promote Biodiversity		
	Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links	Promote Biodiversity		
	Encourage local farmers to contribute.	Promote Biodiversity		
	Provide seed bombs / bulbs etc. for residents' use.	Promote Biodiversity		
	Discourage floodlighting.	Protect nocturnal animals		
Support Community Projects	Liaise with Sapperton Wilder Project.			
	Partner with the school to promote their efforts to raise young people's awareness of the environment around them			
Contractors	Ensure that all Contractors employed by the Parish Council are aware of the Parish Council's Biodiversity Duty			