



CARSINGTON & HOPTON PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Date adopted	March 2024
Date of review	March 2026

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, Carsington & Hopton 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 the parish council 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 and around Carsington & Hopton to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTION PLAN

SITE	ACTION	OBJECTIVE
Local Area	<p>Raise local awareness of biodiversity.</p> <p>Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links</p> <p>Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted on the Council's website.</p> <p>Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity, continuing to plant bee, insect and butterfly friendly plants.</p> <p>Consider providing seeds for residents' use.</p> <p>Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Ensure street furniture is sustainable and in keeping – for example, recycled benches; recycling oak noticeboards to replace existing ones.</p>	<p>Gain local support for action.</p> <p>Engagement/ownership of biodiversity</p> <p>Sustain and enhance natural habitats.</p>

<p>Village Green Playground</p>	<p>Sympathetically maintain hedging.</p> <p>Only use environment friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.</p> <p>Leave grass around playground equipment.</p> <p>Enhance village green with sustainable furniture, for example sheep and ram made from recycled materials</p>	<p>Food sources and cover</p> <p>Sustain and enhance natural habitats.</p> <p>Diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species</p>
<p>Village Green</p>	<p>Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs.</p> <p>Maintain the bug house.</p> <p>Avoid mowing the verges.</p> <p>Tree planted on village green with plaque made of recycled materials.</p>	<p>Protecting habitats</p> <p>Food sources and cover</p> <p>Protecting/enhancing habitats</p>
<p>Support Community Projects</p>	<p>Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the school, the church and CARE to develop people's awareness of the environment around them.</p>	<p>Extending habitats.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p>