

# Broadhempston Parish Council

## BIODIVERSITY POLICY

### **Introduction**

Broadhempston Parish Council has an important leadership role to play in creating a sustainable community environment where biodiversity can thrive.

We recognise our existing and future responsibilities both to conserve and promote biodiversity and to take positive action through innovation in the management of open spaces, hedges and verges, as well as conservation of our natural areas.

DEFRA defines biodiversity as the variety of all life on Earth, including all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them. Conservation of biodiversity is vital for the provision of ecosystem services such as food, flood management, pollination and provision of clean air and water. It contributes to our economy, health and well-being, helps mitigate climate change and enriches our lives.

Biodiversity is being destroyed and degraded at an unprecedented rate. Therefore, we will strive to lead by example in positively managing the Parish's treasured and unique habitats to benefit and improve biodiversity wherever possible.

### **What the Council will do to Promote Biodiversity**

The Parish Council will, as far as is possible, aim to conserve and improve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices regarding grass, hedge and tree 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.

The Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.

The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as part of its leadership role within the local community.

The Parish Council will involve the community to improve biodiversity on its land including, for example, tree planting and wilding areas, and support community activities that enhance and promote biodiversity.

The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and social media.

The Parish Council will consider biodiversity impact when commenting on planning applications. It will support protection of sensitive or priority habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of biodiversity in respect of all applications.

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