



Biodiversity Policy

Version Control

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March 2023	1	Policy adopted

Introduction

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity is the variety of life around us and includes all species of plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms. The survival and success of all these living things does not happen in isolation – species are inextricably linked to each other, via the natural systems that support them. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or ‘ecosystems’, that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity. Conserving biodiversity includes restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats, as well as protecting them.

Our Aim

Weston Turville Parish Council’s aim is to care for the environment through its own policies and practices and by encouraging others to do the same.

Action

The Council will endeavour to be as conscientious as possible about biodiversity, conservation and use of resources. The Council will keep aware of the environmental regulations that apply to its business and ensure that its legal obligations are met.

The Council will communicate this policy to Councillors and officers through channels such as meetings and work planning, and it will encourage suggestions of ways to provide a positive environmental impact.

Weston Turville Parish Council practices and initiatives to improve biodiversity include:

- Assessing chemicals used (e.g. cleaning/gardening) and ensuring their appropriate safe disposal;
- Minimising use of harmful pesticides;
- Mulching horticultural waste where possible;
- Planting more trees and using indigenous species as much as possible;
- Some verges are left uncut to encourage wild flowers and insect habitats
- In considering planning applications, the council will take particular account of the impact on biodiversity.

Awareness Raising

The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wild flower meadows, birdbox / bug hotel making.

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