

Ashill Biodiversity Policy

INTRODUCTION

Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces.

This means that, as a public authority, a Parish Council must:

1. Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
3. Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objective

ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of forms of life found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms like bacteria. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems to maintain, balance and support life.

OBJECTIVES

- Use Parish Council influence to support and enhance biodiversity in the Parish as a whole.
- Increase community awareness of, and involvement in, biodiversity issues.
- Support local biodiversity projects.

WHAT THE COUNCIL WILL DO TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

- 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 in promoting biodiversity and living areas on its land including, for example, tree planting, developing living areas and wilding areas.
- The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.
- The Parish Council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. It will 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.
- The Parish Council will, as far as is possible, conserve and promote the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices with regarding to 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.