

**Agenda Item 14. To receive a first draft of a Biodiversity Policy for the Parish.**

Guidance Notes

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

Town and Parish Councils should be able to show their duty to have regard for conserving biodiversity if they have identified ways to integrate biodiversity when they:

- Develop policies and strategies and put them into practice.
- Manage the planning system.  
Manage:
  - their land and buildings
  - woodlands and nature reserves
  - gardens, parks and public open space
  - community amenities e.g. sports grounds and cemeteries
  - waste and pollution
  - energy and water
  - wood and plant products
- Develop infrastructure, such as roads, buildings or flood defences.
- Make decisions about procurement.
- Implement economic, environmental and social programmes.

This duty has been reinforced under the Environment Act 2021.