

Shobnall Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

In accordance with the Duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Shobnall Parish Council will in exercising all its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. Biodiversity is essential in sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems' that provide us all with health, wealth, food and the vital services our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

As Shobnall Parish Council neither has, nor manages, land or buildings it cannot be an initiator of biodiversity strategies. However, the Parish Council will be expected, if appropriate, to influence what is called 'biodiversity net gain' by encouraging others in its area.

To help Shobnall Parish Council meet its Biodiversity Policy:

- The Parish Council will consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- The Parish Council undertakes to 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. The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website.

This Policy was adopted by Shobnall Parish Council on 15 July 2024 and will be reviewed every five years at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Action Plan

| Site/ Objective | Action | Outcome | Target | Reporting/ Publicity |
|--|--|--|---------|-------------------------|
| Whole council area | Raise local awareness of biodiversity. | Gain local support for action. | Ongoing | Website |
| The Built Landscape | <p>Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries</p> | <p>Protecting/enhancing habitats.</p> <p>Extending habitats.</p> | Ongoing | |
| Increase community awareness of biodiversity | <p>Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife.</p> <p>Create a page on the parish council website for photographs/information/links</p> | <p>Engagement/ownership of biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> | Ongoing | |
| Support Community Projects | <p>Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them.</p> <p>Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.</p> | <p>Extending habitats.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> | | |