



BIODIVERSITY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council will, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity and 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 and verges, as well as conservation of our natural areas.

We will strive to lead by example in positively managing the village's treasured and unique habitats.

ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

Thriving biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems are essential for our survival and wellbeing and biodiversity losses are unprecedented.

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 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.

WHAT THE COUNCIL WILL DO TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

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 regards 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.

Old Basing & Lychpit 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.

Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council will, where feasible, involve the community in promoting biodiversity and living areas on its land including, for example, tree planting, developing living areas and wilding areas.

Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.

Old Basing & Lychpit 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.