

Seer Green Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

1. Purpose and Commitment

Seer Green Parish Council recognises its duty under the **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40)** to have due regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in the exercise of all its functions.

The Council is committed to protecting, enhancing, and restoring biodiversity within the parish. We aim to ensure that all our decisions and activities contribute positively to the health of local ecosystems and the wellbeing of our community.

2. Objectives

The Council will:

1. **Protect and enhance** habitats and species in the parish, especially those identified as locally or nationally important.
2. **Promote nature recovery** by supporting community-led conservation initiatives and sustainable land management.
3. **Integrate biodiversity considerations** into all council functions — including planning responses, land maintenance, and project delivery.
4. **Raise awareness** among residents, volunteers, and local organisations about the importance of biodiversity and how to support it.
5. **Collaborate** with partners such as the Local Planning Authority, CPRE, local Wildlife Trusts, and community groups to deliver biodiversity improvements.

3. Implementation

To achieve these objectives, the Council will:

a) Parish Land and Assets

- Manage any council-owned or leased land (e.g. playing fields, allotments, verges, cemetery) in ways that **encourage wildlife**, such as:
 - Reduced mowing and creation of wildflower areas.
 - Native tree and hedge planting.
 - Installing and maintaining bird, bat, and insect boxes.
- Avoid or reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides.

b) Planning and Development

Adopted: 2nd December 2025
Next review: 2nd December 2028

- When commenting on planning applications, the Council will:
 - Seek to **protect existing habitats** and require **biodiversity net gain** in line with national policy.
 - Encourage use of **native planting, wildlife corridors**, and **sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)**.

c) Community Engagement

- Support local initiatives such as tree planting, litter picking, verge management, or nature walks.
- Promote awareness of biodiversity through the council website, newsletters, and events.

d) Procurement and Projects

- Consider biodiversity impacts when procuring goods, materials, or services.
- Design council projects (such as path maintenance or lighting) to minimise harm to wildlife.

4. Monitoring and Review

- The Council will **review this policy every three years** or sooner if legislation or local priorities change.
- Success will be measured by actions delivered (e.g. trees planted, wildflower areas established, partnerships formed), rather than by formal ecological surveys unless resources allow.

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