



# Wheatley Parish Council's Biodiversity Policy

Approved: (04.12.2023)

## 1. Introduction

In accordance with the Environment Act 2021, Wheatley Parish Council (WPC) has a duty to consider <sup>1</sup>what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

Within its [Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#), WPC has already committed to action against climate change to protect the environment (Goal 1).

This document sets out the details of WPC's initial considerations.

## 2. Scope of document

This document will detail how WPC will seek to improve biodiversity on its own land, land that it manages on behalf of others, how it will seek to work with others to support biodiversity within Wheatley and the surrounding area.

## 3. External Strategies

WPC will be expected to identify any strategies that are relevant to WPC or how it can contribute. These strategies include:

- Local nature recovery strategies
- Species conservation strategies
- Protected site strategies.

## 4. National goals and targets

The Environmental Improvement Plan was published by the government in 2023 and sets out its plans including:

By 2030, the government has committed to:

- halt the decline in species abundance.
- protect 30% of UK land.

By 2042, the government has committed to:

- increase species abundance by at least 10% from 2030, surpassing 2022 levels.
- restore or create at least 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife rich habitats.
- reduce the risk of species extinction.
- restore 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term.

---

<sup>1</sup> There is no legal duty to report on our activities, although WPC may choose to do this.

## **5. Supporting biodiversity in Wheatley**

The following information lays out WPCs initial plans to improve and support biodiversity in the village. Further information will be provided within the next twelve months:

### *General areas*

- Work with the community, local organisations, and businesses to raise awareness of issues and to work in partnership to support improved biodiversity in Wheatley.
- WPC to consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- WPC to ensure WNP policies and objectives are implemented.

### *WPC land*

- To undertake ecological surveys of council owned land, to understand what flora and fauna are utilising the land.
- Seek advice on wildflower, shrub, bulb, and tree planting to identify suitable areas, species, and planting schemes.
- WPC to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides on WPC owned land.
- Where possible, leave fallen wood, leaf litter and dead vegetation to support habitats.
- Investigate installation of new insect hotels, bat/bird boxes
- Review cutting regimes and identify areas that can be rewilded.

### *Future projects*

- WPC hope that plans to reestablish community use of Littleworth Field will enable habitats to be improved and created, including improved wetland, grass land and managed tree stocks.
- Work with ecological groups to reestablish natural dams in Littleworth Allotments
- Investigate potential nature site on land between Wheatley Playing Fields and A40.

### *Communications*

- WPC will promote its activities and those of volunteers, community groups and businesses through its communication channels.

## 6. Timescales

WPC must meet its requirements from 1st Jan 2024, with implementation taking place over the next five years.

- WPC to approve this document – Nov/Dec2023
- Develop and adopt biodiversity action plan – Jan-Dec 2024
- Implementation – from Jan 2024 onwards
- Monitoring –Jul & Dec 2024 onwards (twice yearly)

Date of policy: 19.10.2023  
Approving committee: Full Council  
Reviewing Committee: Open Spaces Committee  
Date of committee meeting: N/A  
Policy version reference: N/A  
Supersedes: N/A  
Policy effective from: TBC  
Date for next review: 2024.