

Carbrooke Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

1. Introduction

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils, to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021, so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

This means a public authority must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

2. Definition

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. Biodiversity is everywhere, in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains rivers and the sea. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our ‘ecosystems’ that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

3. Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council’s area. The Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required. In particular, the Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:-

- Consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications
- Manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity

- Support local business and council operations in the adoption of low impact/nature positive practices
- Encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind
- Support residents to enhance and promote biodiversity

4. Actions

The Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- With regard to planning applications, encourage applicants to take into account benefits that they can provide to biodiversity in their proposed development; support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats; 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. The Council will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- Include policies in support of biodiversity within its Neighbourhood Plan
- Manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work, paying attention to the Government's regulations for plant protection products.
- Take care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment
- Where it is not cost-prohibitive to do so, source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use
- Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes in the management of the Community Hub
- Work with Norfolk County Council and local landowners regarding hedge cutting and verge cutting in terms of leaving margins of land uncut

5 Parish Council Land

Carbrooke Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of designated areas of land at Blenheim Grange housing estate, including the Community Hub, and for the car park and surrounding areas of

land at Carbrooke Village Hall. The Council has drawn up a Maintenance Plan for Blenheim Grange and has a Tree Management policy. The Council seeks to work with residents at all times and with its contractors to ensure that the land under its ownership is maintained responsibly.

Approved: February 2026.

Next review: January 2027.