Newport Parish Council Biodiversity Policy

Adopted on: 11th November 2025

Introduction

This policy responds to the strengthened biodiversity duty introduced by the Environment Act 2021. Newport Parish Council is committed to conserving and enhancing biodiversity within its jurisdiction. Biodiversity—the variety and abundance of life—supports ecosystems critical to human and environmental well-being.

The council is using advice created by central government to support compliance with the Biodiversity Duty

Policy Objectives

Newport Parish Council will:

1. Conserve and enhance biodiversity in all council decisions, operations, and activities.
2. Embed biodiversity considerations into planning processes, supporting developments that protect and improve habitats.
3. Raise awareness of biodiversity issues within the community, encouraging residents to take part in biodiversity initiatives.
4. Manage council-owned land to protect and enhance biodiversity.
5. Collaborate with local organisations, businesses, and residents to promote biodiversity.
6. Monitor and review biodiversity efforts to ensure progress and identify new opportunities for enhancement.

Commitments

The council will:

- **Decision-Making and Planning:**
    - Consider biodiversity impacts in council meetings and decisions, aiming to minimise adverse effects while identifying opportunities for biodiversity gains.
    - Support planning applications that integrate habitat conservation or creation and oppose developments harmful to sensitive ecosystems.
- **Community Engagement and Education:**
    - Communicate biodiversity-related information via the council's website, newsletters, and public events.
    - Encourage and support local biodiversity projects, such as wildlife corridors, tree planting, and wildflower meadows.
    - Partner with schools to educate young people on the importance of biodiversity.
    - Organise public events such as BioBlitzes and workshops on biodiversity friendly practices.

- **Council Land Management:**
    - Conduct biodiversity audits of council-managed land to identify opportunities for improvement.
    - Implement biodiversity-friendly maintenance practices, such as:
        - Reducing or eliminating pesticide and herbicide use.
        - Leaving areas of grass unmown to encourage pollinators and wildlife.
        - Planting native trees and shrubs.
    - Create dedicated spaces for wildlife, such as installing bird boxes, bat roosts, and log piles.
    - Remove invasive species in compliance with appropriate legislation.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:**
    - Work with conservation organisations, businesses, and residents to implement biodiversity strategies.
    - Engage with local businesses to encourage biodiversity-positive practices.
    - Collaborate with Principal Authorities on verge management to support biodiversity while ensuring safety.
    - Contact potential partners such as: Eco Church; Cemetery Caring for God's Acre; The Conservation Volunteers; Buglife; Hedgehog Street; Pesticide Action Network UK
    - Review steps to develop a Tree and Woodland strategy

Monitoring and Review

- **Implementation Monitoring:**
    - Biodiversity efforts will be monitored annually, with progress evaluated against biodiversity audit results.
- **Policy Review:**
    - The policy will be reviewed every year or earlier if legislation requires.

By adopting this policy, Newport Parish Council aims to create a thriving local environment that benefits biodiversity and the well-being of its residents.

- Original Biodiversity Policy adopted 10th September 2024 – Ref 2024 09 09
- Updated ERNLLCA / NALC recommended and approved policy adopted 11th November 2025 – REF 2025 11 08.
- Reviewed by the Newport Parish Council 10.11.26 – No updates required. Minute Ref 2026 11 08