



Biodiversity Policy Statement

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Biodiversity policy statement	Draft	For consideration on 14 March 2023 and 28 March	March 2024

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 imposes on town and parish councils, when exercising their functions, a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity can be defined as 'the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.' Biodiversity and species richness 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 key component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

So as to meet its biodiversity responsibilities effectively Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council has committed to carrying out a biodiversity audit and following through with an action plan from this and subsequent audits on a regular basis.

The town 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.

As far as is possible, the town council will conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices with regarding 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 work to ensure that such works, whilst reaching acceptable standards, do not harm the natural environment.

The town council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

The town council will also endeavour to raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. For example the council will involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wild flowerbeds and other activities. The town council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.