



Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

Adopted by Council: 6th November 2023

Review May 2024

Introduction: Broadbridge Heath Parish Council acknowledges its duty to fulfil its biodiversity duty as mandated by the Environment Act 2021. The council is committed to preserving and enhancing the environment of the Parish and at their Council Meeting of 6th November 2023, agreed to produce a Biodiversity Policy.

Our Commitment: Broadbridge Heath Parish Council is committed to taking actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation and raise awareness about the significance of biodiversity within our local community. Our approach will include, but not be limited to, the following actions:

1. Open Spaces

The Council owns and manages several areas of open space. We recognise the importance of promoting biodiversity conservation within our capacity and fostering a sense of responsibility within our community.

- We will improve how we manage and connect public open spaces and strengthen green corridors
- We will support and enhance local initiatives for biodiversity in green and open spaces
- We will enhance and maintain vital green space for nature to thrive in our communities
- We will aspire to create a more attractive and healthier environment for residents of the present and future
- We will endeavour to help to respond to the effects of climate change, taking actions to counter environmental harm on a local, Parish level.

2. Community Engagement and Education:

- We will actively engage with our local community on the importance of biodiversity conservation, sharing relevant information via social media and on the Council website.
- We will, where appropriate, support local organisations in promoting their educational programmes, workshops, and public events to inform residents about biodiversity's significance and how they can contribute to conservation efforts in their own spaces.

3. Policy Development and Budgeting:

- We will develop, when needed, further biodiversity conservation policies.
 - We will consider the financial implications of biodiversity strategies when calculating the annual budget.
4. **Advocacy and Support:**
- We will advocate, when required, for biodiversity conservation in the broader region by collaborating, when appropriate, with neighbouring councils, environmental organisations, and district and county authorities.
 - We will provide guidance to residents who wish to implement biodiversity-friendly practices by directing them to the appropriate organisations or resources when requested.
5. **Local Planning and Development:**
- We will provide input on local planning and development proposals to ensure they consider biodiversity conservation.
 - We will advocate for green infrastructure and nature-based solutions in development projects.
6. **Participation in Regional Strategies:**
- We will engage with regional strategies, which might include local nature recovery strategies and species conservation strategies.
7. **Networking and Collaboration:** - Where appropriate, we will network with other councils and local environmental organisations, to share best practices and collaborate on biodiversity conservation projects.
8. **Review and Adapt:** - We will periodically review and adapt our approach to biodiversity conservation based on community needs and changing circumstances and to that end this policy will be reviewed annually.

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council will remain committed to playing a significant role in promoting biodiversity conservation, raising awareness, and advocating for policy changes within our local community and the broader region.