



LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL

Little Marlow Biodiversity Policy

Approval & Review
Approved & Adopted: 20th May 2025 by Full Council
Next Review: May 2027

Version History			
Date	Version	Minute	Changes
20/05/2025	1	2795/25	Created



LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL

LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, **LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL** (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

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. 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.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area.

The Full Council and any committees of the Council will, where appropriate, consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular, the Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications where appropriate.
- manage its land and property using practices that will promote biodiversity.
- encourage and support other organisations within Little Marlow to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.



ACTIONS

Planning applications

The Council will:

- when commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats where appropriate.
- 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.
- consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain where appropriate.
- include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

Land and property management

The Council will:

- consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. 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](#).¹
- take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- source sustainable materials where appropriate when procuring supplies for the Council's use
- consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local community

The Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area. It will review relevant local strategies and consider how it might support the implementation of their recommendations.

¹ [The Official Controls \(Plant Protection Products\) Regulations 2020: policy statement - GOV.UK](#)



MONITORING

This policy was adopted on **20th May 2025 (minute reference 2795/25)** and will be reviewed in two years or sooner should legislation dictate / each year at the Annual Meeting. A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually.

ACTION PLAN

Category	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET	PUBLICITY
Whole council area	Promote, support and encourage activities that increase and protect biodiversity.	Increased biodiversity and the enhancement and protection of habitats	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
Cemetery	Sympathetically maintain existing plantings	Protection of habitats	Ongoing	
	Leave leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible.	Enhancement of habitats	Ongoing	
	Maintain and increase bird, bat and bee boxes as appropriate.	Protection of habitats	Ongoing	
	Additional plantings and landscaping	Increased biodiversity	Ongoing	
Recreation ground	Sympathetically maintain hedging.	Protection of habitats	Ongoing	
	Leave appropriate areas unmown.	Enhancement of habitats	Ongoing	
	Use pesticides and herbicides only where essential and only in ideal weather conditions.	Protection of habitats	Ongoing	
Allotments	Encourage holders to use pesticides and herbicides only where essential and only in ideal weather conditions.	Protection of habitats	Ongoing	
	Encourage holders to compost green waste	Increased biodiversity	Ongoing	
	Encourage holders to install bird, bat and bee boxes and to provide shelter for beneficial insects	Enhancement of habitats	Ongoing	



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Other Open spaces	Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs.	Protection of habitats	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
	Participate in Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works liaison committee	Protection of River Thames and associated habitats	Ongoing	
	Work with Bucks Council on the development of Little Marlow Lakes Country Park	Increased biodiversity, protection and enhancement of habitats	Ongoing	
	Support hedge/tree/wildflower planting in appropriate public areas.	Increased biodiversity and enhancement of habitats	Ongoing	
The Built Landscape	Ensure that The Council's comments on planning applications consider environmental impact where appropriate	Sustainable biodiversity and the enhancement and protection of habitats	Ongoing	Neighbourhood plan consultation
	Produce a neighbourhood plan that balances the needs of the community with support for the environment	Sustainable biodiversity	2027	
Community	Raise parishioner's awareness of the how their gardens can be used to support and enhance biodiversity	Increased biodiversity and the enhancement and protection of habitats	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
	Encourage local farmers to support and enhance biodiversity on their land	Sustainable biodiversity	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
	Work with local businesses and organisation on projects that support and enhance biodiversity in the parish	Increased biodiversity and the enhancement and protection of habitats	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website