

PREAMBLE

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 Malvern and Welland Parish Council (LM&WPC)(*the Council*) will have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in the Parishes under its jurisdiction when conducting its business.

DEFINITION

According to Defra , biodiversity is the variety of all life.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value and it provides us with the building blocks of the 'ecosystems' that support our economic, social and physical wellbeing.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to contribute to enhancing and protecting the biodiversity within the Little Malvern and Welland parish area.

All committees, working groups and officers of LM&WPC will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as appropriate. In particular, LM&WPC 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 will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses & council operations in the adoption of low impact practices.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.
- understand and respond to the challenges that climate change has on local biodiversity

FOCUS AREAS FOR ACTION

Planning applications

- The 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 appropriate 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.
- It will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain and if this is of a type appropriate to the wider nature recovery plan for the area.
- It will ensure policies that support biodiversity and enhancements and protections within any adopted neighbourhood plan are applied and will assess the impact and effectiveness of such policies in future neighbourhood plan reviews and updates.

Land and property management

- The council will explore opportunities to identify the biodiversity of its landholdings and progress these, including conducting an audit if necessary.
- The council will consider the conservation and promotion of desired 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.
- Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- The council will consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

- The council will also consider options for all the above that conserve and promote biodiversity in the context of the challenges of climate change and the additional resources and responsible practices that this might entail.

Local community

- The council will raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- The council will engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- It will, 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 area
- It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

HOW THE POLICY WILL BE DELIVERED AND MONITORED

- A Biodiversity Action Plan will be produced to deliver the aims and objectives of this policy.
- The council will include the policies and community action projects specified in any adopted neighbourhood plan in the content of the Biodiversity Action Plan and will use them to promote biodiversity protection and enhancement within the parishes.
- The council will appoint an appropriately qualified Biodiversity Volunteer Officer to advise and support the Council on the development and implementation of this Policy
- The biodiversity action plan will be an active document used by the Council in its decision making.
- This biodiversity policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually.

This Biodiversity Policy was Reviewed and Agreed by Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council at a meeting on 21st September 2026

Signed:

Paul Riordan (Chair)

Next Review Date: September 2027