Brisley Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

Approved: 6th December 2023

Review Date: 2028

Legislation

In accordance with the Duty imposed by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended by the Section 102 Environment Act 2021, Brisley Parish Council will, in exercising all its functions, actively consider how it can conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Biodiversity comes from the words biological diversity and is the variety of life on earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi and the natural systems that support them.

Aim

Through its work, Brisley Parish Council will aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity, contributing to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity and developing an agreed Action Plan for the parish.

The Council will:

- manage its land and buildings to enhance and improve biodiversity through best practices, engaging with grounds maintenance contractors and volunteers to:
  - ✓ manage the Green, a County Wildlife site, as advised by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust:
  - ✓ manage Harpers Green, a Higher Stewardship Scheme site, as advised in the management document;
  - ✓ plant indigenous trees and wildflowers;
  - ✓ reduce mowing to create a mosaic of new habitats that benefit wildlife;
  - ✓ continue our programme of the restoration of parish ponds;
  - ✓ install bird/bat boxes;
  - ✓ reduce reliance on pesticides and herbicides.
- include policies to conserve and enhance biodiversity by:
  - ✓ mapping areas of biodiversity and introducing policies to enhance greenspace in the parish;
  - ✓ introduce policies to protect significant private greenspaces in the parish.
- consider the impact on biodiversity when commenting on planning applications ensuring where it is appropriate that there is a net gain in overall biodiversity:
  - ✓ support good design that helps improve the local environment integrating existing habitats and trees within new developments;
  - ✓ support development that increases overall biodiversity.

- educate, advise and raise awareness of the public's understanding of biodiversity and encourage them to improve biodiversity:
  - ✓ engage with the local community to raise awareness of biodiversity through newsletters and website;
  - ✓ actively involve the community in projects to enhance biodiversity, through projects including tree planting, installing bird/bat boxes and creating hedgehog friendly gardens;
  - ✓ seek out local enthusiasts/experts to help monitor biodiversity including undertaking surveys for birds, mammals and reptiles.
- encourage landowners and businesses to improve biodiversity
  - ✓ engage with landowners and businesses to promote the importance of biodiversity, where possible creating green corridors that benefit wildlife.

Review

Within 5 years, or before if appropriate, the Council will review and update its agreed Action Plan.