



Appleton Parish Council

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Biodiversity Policy

Adopted by the Parish Council on 18th June 2024

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, Appleton Parish Council will in exercising all of its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

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. Several studies have shown this value also goes further. It is the building block of our 'ecosystems'. These 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 enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Appleton.

Appleton Parish Council will consider biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

Appleton Parish Council 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.

Actions

Planning applications

- Appleton Parish Council, when commenting on planning applications, will consider support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- It will consider 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.
- Policies in support of biodiversity are contained in the Appleton Thorn neighbourhood plan.

Land and property management

- Appleton Parish Council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity about the management of its open spaces. This consideration will include adopting beneficial practices regarding cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Consideration 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.

Local community

- Appleton Parish Council will consider engagement with local businesses and residents, where appropriate, regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- It will consider involving the community in biodiversity projects including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

- Appleton Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity.