

# **BARNETBY LE WOLD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Biodiversity Policy**

Adopted Date: February 2026  
Review: Continuous, in line with legislation.  
Annual Review due: May 2027

### **1. Introduction**

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making.

This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must:

Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.  
Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.  
Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance requires all public authorities to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024.

They must agree their policies and objectives as soon as possible after this and must reconsider the selected actions within five years of completing their previous consideration, or more frequently if they choose.

### **2. 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 everywhere, in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains rivers and the sea. 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.

### **3. The Local Area**

Barnetby Le Wold Parish Council is a rural village with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges and farmland.

### **4. Parish Council responsibilities**

The Parish Council owns the Recreational Field and the new Cemetery.

The Parish Council is also responsible for the grass cutting public right of way through a partnership agreement with NLC.

### 5. Aims and Objectives.

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area. The Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

### 6. Actions

The Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially 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. 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. They will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made by partners including North Lincolnshire Council
- Manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity. 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.
- Take care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment
- It will review how it manages the land owned by the Parish Council which may include, but is not limited to.
  - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
  - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
  - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
  - Consider a margin of uncut grass around the hedges on the Community Centre to allow longer grasses to grow
  - Allow fallen tree branches to remain, if safe to allow invertebrates to habitat
  - Hedge and grass cutting on PROW takes place regularly through the spring and summer and is very much a balancing act as the Parish Council is contracted to keep these open for walkers.

### 7. Monitoring and Review

This policy was adopted in February 2026 and will be reviewed continuously in line with legislation. An action plan will be developed over the coming year and a summary of how the policy has been implemented will be reported annually at the Annual Parish Council meeting to show progress against that action plan.

Approved by:

Position:

Minute Ref.

Date: