

Swanland Parish Council Biodiversity Policy

Adopted on: 1st December 2025

Introduction

This policy responds to the strengthened biodiversity duty introduced by the Environment Act 2021. Swanland Parish Council is committed to conserving and enhancing biodiversity within its jurisdiction. Biodiversity—the variety and abundance of life—supports ecosystems critical to human and environmental well-being.

Policy Objectives

Swanland Parish Council will endeavour to :

1. Conserve and enhance biodiversity in all council decisions, operations, and activities.
2. Embed biodiversity considerations into planning processes, supporting developments that protect and improve habitats.
3. Manage council-owned land to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Commitments

The council will endeavour to :

- **Decision-Making and Planning:**
 - Consider biodiversity impacts in council meetings and decisions, aiming to minimise adverse effects while identifying opportunities for biodiversity gains.
 - Support planning applications that integrate habitat conservation or creation and oppose developments harmful to sensitive ecosystems.
- **Community Engagement and Education:**
 - Communicate biodiversity-related information via the council's website, newsletters, and public events.
 - Encourage and support local biodiversity projects, such as wildlife corridors, tree planting, and wildflower meadows.
- **Council Land Management:**
 - Implement biodiversity-friendly maintenance practices, such as:
 - Reducing or eliminating pesticide and herbicide use.
 - Leaving areas of grass unmown to encourage pollinators and wildlife.
 - Planting native trees and shrubs.
 - Remove invasive species in compliance with appropriate legislation.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:**
 - Work with conservation organisations, businesses, and residents to implement biodiversity strategies.

- Collaborate with Principal Authorities on verge management to support biodiversity while ensuring safety.

Review

- **Policy Review:**

- The policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if legislation requires.

By adopting this policy, Swanland Parish Council aims to create a thriving local environment that benefits biodiversity and the well-being of its residents.