



## AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Biodiversity Policy

#### 1. Council Statement

Aylesbury Town Council recognises the importance of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. As stewards of the environment, we are committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity within our town.

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all animal and plant life.

The Town Council has significant opportunity to conserve and further enhance local biodiversity due to our management of multiple outdoor spaces; Tring Road Cemetery, 7 Allotment sites, plots of land adjacent to Alfred Rose Park, Temple Square and the management of Walton Pond.

The council's wider operations including outdoor maintenance, events, public and business engagement and the running of the Johnathan Page Play Centre add to our environmental responsibilities, whilst simultaneously creating opportunities to raise awareness and implement environmentally protective and enhancing strategies.

#### 2. Aims and Objectives of the Policy

- This policy applies to all employees and councillors
- The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity within the Parish of Aylesbury Town.
- The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions.
- Consideration will be given to the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- Land management will incorporate environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- The Council will where possible support local businesses and communities by way of encouraging them to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- Council operations will be undertaken with low impact / nature positive practices in mind.

### **3. Actions**

#### **3.1 Planning applications**

The Council will:

- 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.
- Consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.

#### **3.2 Land and property management**

The Council will:

- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Take special care in the specification of grounds and building maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- Where practicable, source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use.

#### **3.3 Local community**

The Council will:

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website, newsletters and magazine, social media channels and at events.
- Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how they can make a positive difference.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land and at events.

#### **3.4 Partners**

The Council will:

- Work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

- Review local nature recovery strategies, species conservation or protected site strategies and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.
- Create and take into consideration the council's Biodiversity 'action plan'. This is a working document detailing what actions can be taken to support biodiversity within daily operations and when running projects and events.

Adopted by Town Council/ Policy Committee	Ratified by Town Council	Reviewed	Amended	Next Review Date
30 January 2024	30 January 2024	---	---	January 2026