



DRAFT BIODIVERSITY POLICY

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| Adopted | 12 March 2024 |
| Review Body | Full Council |
| Review Period | Annually |
| Next Review | March 2025 |

Signed: 

Chair, Cllr Lesley Hill

DRAFT BIODIVERSITY POLICY

1. Introduction - Statutory Duty

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

Government guidance published on 17th May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

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

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance required 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 may reconsider the selected actions within 5 years of completing their previous consideration, or more frequently if they choose.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of the parish of Leiston-cum-Sizewell. All committees of the Town Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

3. ACTIONS

Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

a) Parks and Recreation Working Group

- It will immediately request the Parks and Recreation Working Group to review this

5. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

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, Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council will in exercising all its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. This duty also means that the Council can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

6. Definition of Biodiversity

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. 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.