



Martlesham Parish Council

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BIODIVERSITY POLICY 2025

1. BACKGROUND

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, Martlesham Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective of the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England

DEFRA defines biodiversity as follows: Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth: genes, species and ecosystems. It includes all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Council's area. The Full Council and any committees or working groups of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular, the Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

3. Planning and consultations

In our responses to pre planning enquiries, planning applications and consultations we will support developments which:

- a. benefit biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats, and the enhancement of sites with geological value.
- b. support protection of sensitive habitats from development

- c. achieve a minimum footprint to reduce impermeable areas
- d. provide natural corridors and use hedging as boundary markers
- e. reduce energy, water and carbon use
- f. where scale of developments allows, encourage a high proportion of energy needs to be generated on site from a renewable source
- g. parts of Martlesham Parish lie in the National Landscape (formerly AONB). Light pollution in this area should not be encouraged or supported.
- h. we support development which has the potential for habitat enhancement or restoration.

4. Land and Property Management

- a. We will carry out a biodiversity audit of our landholdings and areas for which we are responsible.
- b. In the management of the land we are responsible for we will encourage appropriate tree and other planting and manage habitats to mitigate the climate emergency, encourage bio-diversity, and maximise carbon capture.
- c. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regard 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.
- d. We will take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment
- e. We will also develop a parish wide co-ordinated approach to develop wildlife corridors.
- f. Relevant Working Groups will follow the same principles and we will encourage others responsible for land management in the parish to join us.

5. Working with the local community

- a. Where we provide land management services to other organisations in the parish we will work with them to implement a programme which follows the principles outlined under Land and Property Management
- b. The grants policy will recognise the need to encourage other groups working to support these principles.
- c. Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, and the need for personal action to be taken, including through its website and newsletters.
- d. Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity enhancement in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- e. Involve the community in biodiversity projects on our land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

6. Working with Partners

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to:

- a. protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area. It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations
- b. develop wildlife corridors and plans to integrate our biodiversity work with neighbouring local and principal authorities
- c. reduce the drivers of climate change.
- d. develop a long term sustainable travel strategy
- e. prioritise provision of sustainable transport
- f. work towards traffic reduction, calming and lower speed limits
- g. encourage monitoring vehicle emissions and noise levels to identify areas which require immediate remedial action and to build a data base of existing levels

7. Other Council Activities

- a. We will work to include policies in support of biodiversity enhancement and conservation when reviewing our Neighbourhood Plan
- b. Where available will chose products and services which mitigate the climate emergency
- c. Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings
- d. We aim to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030
- e. Seek external funding to support this work
- f. We will consider our biodiversity policy aims and objectives when recruiting new volunteers and councillors

8. Monitoring

This policy was adopted on 02.04.25 (Minute reference C2025/4d) and will be reviewed in accordance with the council's timetables for policy review. A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually, with reference to the original biodiversity audit to show progress