BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Biodiversity Policy

Our Commitment

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, Bradfield Parish Council in exercising all its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

This duty also means that Town and Parish Councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Bradfield.

All committees of BPC will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

BPC will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- Consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- Manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- Support local businesses & council operations in the adoption of low impact practices.
- Support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

Actions

Planning applications

- BPC, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- It will 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.
- Where an application sits within or is potentially affecting (close to) the Coastal Heath National Landscape, BPC will seek that the 2023 Coastal Heath NL Lighting Guide standards are met - which aim to create minimal light disruption to habitats.

Land and property management

- Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- The council will consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local community

The council will raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.

- The council will engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

- BPC will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the town.
- 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.

This policy will be reviewed each year at together with a summary of how the policy has been implemented in the previous twelve months.

Adopted – 3rd November 2026
Next Review – November 2027