



Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

This Biodiversity Policy was adopted by the Council at the Meeting held on 8 April 2026

Introduction

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, Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council (Parish Council) must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, to further the general biodiversity objective.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

Definition

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. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn 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.

Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Parish Council's geographical area.

The Parish Council consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

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

- support its Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group comprising of Parish Councillors and local residents.
- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- promote biodiversity, support local businesses and Parish Council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

Actions

Climate, Sustainability and Biodiversity Working Group

The Parish Council will:

- support the Group which acts as an advisory body to assist the Council in fulfilling its objectives in promoting a greener, more resilient community.
- consider all initiatives including open days, surveys and parish resident activity and support financially, operationally and through marketing where appropriate.

Planning applications

The Parish 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.

Land and property management

The Parish 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 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.
- take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that they source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Parish Council's use

Local community

The Parish Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

The Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the Council's 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

Policy adopted 8 April 2026
Next review date April 2027

ACTION PLAN

SITE/ OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (years)	REPORTING /PUBLICITY
Whole Parish area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity.	Gain local support for action	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity.	Connect and diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Mapping
Support neighbouring town, parish and community councils	Encourage neighbouring councils to raise local awareness of biodiversity supporting through joint working where appropriate	Wider engagement / ownership of biodiversity initiatives	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
Common / other open spaces	Work with Shropshire Council on verge management, favouring biodiversity but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety.	Sustain and enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats by giving regular attention.	Ongoing	
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	<p>Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine.</p> <p>Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links</p> <p>Encourage local farmers to contribute.</p> <p>Discourage floodlighting</p>	<p>Engagement/ownership of biodiversity</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Protect nocturnal animals.</p>	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website

<p>Support Community Projects</p>	<p>Complete biodiversity audit within the parish's geographical area</p> <p>Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them.</p> <p>Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.</p>	<p>Engagement/ownership of biodiversity</p> <p>Extending habitats.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Mapping</p> <p>Newsletter, social media, website</p>
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