

Kington Town Council

Bio-diversity Policy

Agreed by Kington Town Council 17.2.2025

Background

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.

Government guidance published on 17 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.

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

The Bio -Diversity policy forms part of a wider environmental and sustainability policy that the council will adopt in pursuit of its declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency in March 2019.

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. 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.

Land owned or supported by Kington Town Council

- As Trustee through Kington Recreation Ground Trust
 - Kington Recreation Ground
 - Crooked Well (once transfer is complete).
- St. Mary's churchyard

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity within land owned or supported by Kington Town Council

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

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

- Ask the Planning Authority to consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by relevant 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

The Council will:

- A. wherever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly with regard to land management. The Council will seek to manage green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity, wildlife corridors and trees.
- B. 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.
- C. ensure any use of pesticides is done in an environmentally responsible manner and to identify and promote environmentally friendly alternatives, including, where appropriate, schemes to allow vegetation on path edges to grow wild.
- D. 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.
- E. raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- F. engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- G. where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.
- H. promote awareness of, and information on, environmental issues within the community. It will act as a voice for local environmental concerns to those agencies given statutory powers to tackle problems.

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