

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL



POLICY	BIODIVERSITY POLICY
VERSION	1.0
LAST REVIEWED	25 MARCH 2026

1. Purpose

This Biodiversity Policy sets out how Bradwell Parish Council will conserve, enhance, and promote biodiversity within the parish. It aligns with national legislation, including the Environment Act 2021, and supports the duty of public authorities to have regard for conserving biodiversity.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all land owned, managed, or influenced by the Parish Council, as well as its decision-making, procurement, and community engagement activities.

3. Policy Statement

Bradwell Parish Council is committed to:

- 3.1) Protecting and enhancing local wildlife, habitats, and ecosystems
- 3.2) Supporting nature recovery and ecological resilience
- 3.3) Integrating biodiversity considerations into all council functions
- 3.4) Working in partnership with residents, landowners, and organisations

4. Objectives

The Council will aim to:

- 4.1) Maintain and improve the condition of existing habitats
- 4.2) Increase the area and connectivity of wildlife-friendly spaces
- 4.3) Support priority species and habitats identified in Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)
- 4.4) Contribute to measurable biodiversity net gain where applicable
- 4.5) Raise awareness and encourage community participation

5. Actions

5.1 Land Management

- 5.11) Manage parks, and parish council owned green spaces to enhance biodiversity (e.g. reduced mowing, working with the Wildflower Group etc)
- 5.12) Retain dead wood, hedgerows, and natural features where safe to do so
- 5.13) Minimise pesticide and herbicide use
- 5.14) Incorporate native planting schemes

5.2 Planning and Development

- 5.21) Comment on planning applications with consideration for biodiversity impacts
- 5.22) Support developments that deliver biodiversity net gain
- 5.23) Protect trees, hedgerows, and important habitats through planning responses

5.3 Community Engagement

- 5.31) Promote biodiversity through any applicable events, workshops, and communications
- 5.32) Encourage wildlife-friendly gardening and local initiatives
- 5.33) Support schools and community groups in biodiversity projects

5.4 Partnerships

- 5.41) Work with local authorities, environmental groups and local community initiatives.
- 5.42) Support delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- 5.43) Collaborate on landscape-scale conservation projects

5.5 Procurement and Operations

- 5.51) Source environmentally sustainable goods and services
- 5.52) Ensure contractors follow biodiversity-friendly practices
- 5.53) Reduce carbon emissions and support nature-based solutions

6. Monitoring and Reporting

- 6.1) Establish baseline data on habitats and species where possible
- 6.2) Monitor progress against biodiversity objectives

- 6.3) Review the policy and action plan annually
- 6.4) Report progress publicly to ensure transparency

7. Responsibilities

- 7.1) The Parish Council will oversee implementation of this policy
- 7.2) The Amenities committee may take lead responsibility
- 7.3) Staff and contractors must adhere to biodiversity commitments

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or local priorities change.