

# **LIGHTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Biodiversity Policy**

**Date Adopted      10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
**Next review date      February 2027**

## **Introduction**

Lighthorne Parish Council recognises that it has a duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 to consider, from time-to-time, what action it can take to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Biodiversity is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth. Without a wide range of animals, plants and microorganisms, we cannot have the healthy ecosystems that we rely on to provide us with essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters and regulation of our climate. Biodiversity has its own intrinsic value and enriches our lives.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Lighthorne Parish Council will work towards conserving and enhancing biodiversity in Lighthorne Parish. It will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop, implement, and update policies and strategies as required.

## **Actions**

Lighthorne Parish Council will:

### **Consider the Impact on Biodiversity of Planning Applications**

- ✓ 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 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.
- ✓ include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

### **Manage its own Land and Property using Practices that Promote Biodiversity**

- ✓ consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity when managing its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regard to cutting and removal of vegetation (such as log piles, dry hedgerows and composting techniques), application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work, paying attention to the Government's regulations for plant protection products.
- ✓ Where possible adopt 'No Mow April/May' for greens and verges.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ where possible use contractors and suppliers who are local, thus minimising transportation and supporting the local economy.
- ✓ source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use

### **Encourage and Support others in the Local Community to Protect and Enhance Biodiversity**

- ✓ support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity, for example installing bat and bird boxes, hedgehog gaps in fencing and insect 'hotels'.
- ✓ raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through our website, social media and news reports.
- ✓ engage with local businesses, in particular the local farming community, regarding biodiversity on their land
- ✓ encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- ✓ where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including, for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

### **Work in Partnership with other Organisations to Protect, Promote and Enhance Biodiversity**

- ✓ Review the Warwickshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and any species conservation strategies and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.
- ✓ Work with local conservation groups, including Lighthorne's 'Wildlife Friendly Parish' Group (headed by Cathy Stacey), South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife (SWAN), Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and the Cotswold National Landscape. Also with national groups, such as Plantlife and the RSPB.
- ✓ Work with and support neighbouring parishes, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council to implement wider-scale environmental initiatives.

### **Monitoring**

#### **Lighthorne Parish Council will:**

- ✓ Carry out a biodiversity audit and prepare, implement and monitor a Local Nature Action Plan.
- ✓ Support initiatives to survey and audit key species and habitats within the Community.

A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually.