

BROOME PARISH COUNCIL
BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted 05/24
Review date 05/25

INTRODUCTION

Broome Parish Council acknowledges the importance of preserving and enhancing biodiversity within our community. This policy aims to outline our commitment to safeguarding local ecosystems, promoting biodiversity, and integrating conservation efforts into our decision-making processes.

OBJECTIVES

Wherever possible, Broome Parish Council will seek to:

1. **Preserve natural habitats** – through the protection and conservation of existing natural habitats within the Parish.
2. **Promote Biodiversity** – by encouraging the proliferation of diverse flora and fauna Species.
3. **Engage the Community** – by fostering awareness and engagement among residents to participate in biodiversity and conservation efforts.
4. **Practice Sustainability** – by incorporating sustainable practices in council operations to minimize negative impacts on biodiversity.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Broome Parish Council will be guided by the following principles:

1. **Conservation:** we shall support the preservation of local biodiversity hotspots, including green spaces, woodlands, water bodies and wildlife corridors.
2. **Education and Outreach:** we shall support educational programs and initiatives to raise awareness and encourage community involvement in biodiversity conservation.
3. **Partnerships:** we shall collaborate with local organisations, conservation groups, and experts to make use of their expertise and resources for biodiversity initiatives.
4. **Planning and Development:** we shall integrate biodiversity considerations into our

decision-making processes to ensure minimal adverse impact on the environment.

5. Monitoring and Review: we shall regularly monitor the effectiveness of biodiversity initiatives and policies, making adjustments as necessary to achieve objectives.

ACTIONS

Broome Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area to the extent it is possible for it to do so in the following ways:

1. Consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
2. Support local community activities and initiatives to enhance and promote biodiversity.
3. Establish, maintain and/or support the maintenance of wildlife-friendly areas through the planting of native vegetation and the provision of suitable habitats for wildlife.
4. Support initiatives that promote sustainable land management practices, such as organic gardening, reduction of pesticide use, and habitat restoration.

A. Planning applications: we shall-

- 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 the protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife.
- Consider development proposals in terms of biodiversity net gain.

B. Land and property management:

To the extent that the Parish Council controls or owns any land or property it shall-

- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity concerning the management of open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices when cutting and removing vegetation, the application of chemicals, and the timing of maintenance work.

- Ensure special care is taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing any buildings.

C. Local community:

Broome Parish Council shall-

- Endeavour to raise public awareness of biodiversity issues.
- Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference and give consideration to supporting projects on land in the Parish which it does not own or control.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects including for example encouraging tree planting, the establishment of wildflower meadows and the building of birdboxes or other suitable means of encouraging birds into the areas.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Broome Parish Council will implement this policy through collaboration with its residents and other relevant stakeholders and regularly review its effectiveness. Adjustments will be made based on feedback, monitoring data, and changing circumstances to ensure ongoing commitment to biodiversity, sustainability, and conservation.

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