



Biodiversity Policy- adopted on 16th December 2013

Introduction

1. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 creates a duty for every public authority to conserve biodiversity. The act states that “Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The purpose of this document is to set out how Wolvey Parish Council will fulfil this duty.

The importance of biodiversity

2. Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, and includes all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them. Conserving biodiversity includes restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats, as well as protecting them. It is vital to our response to climate change and it provides economic and environmental benefits to local communities. The Council must consider the impact on biodiversity, whenever relevant, in its decision making process.

Planning applications

3. In considering planning applications the Council will take particular account of the impact on biodiversity.

Contracts for work carried out on behalf of the Council

4. In setting out the specifications for any contracts of work to be carried out on its behalf, the Council will ensure that there is no negative impact and, where possible, that there is a positive impact on biodiversity.

Working in partnership with local organisations

5. Wolvey Environment Group (WEG) is a working party of the Council. The Council will support WEG in its work on restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats, as well as protecting them. Through this partnership, the Council will contribute to practical measures that will fulfil its duty to conserve biodiversity.
6. As opportunities arise, the Council will work with public, private and voluntary bodies in conserving biodiversity.
7. In all of its deliberations on matters concerned with biodiversity the Council will take account of the objectives set out in the Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull 'Parish Biodiversity Action Plan.'

Register of important species populations and habitats

8. In partnership with WEG, the Council will maintain a register of important species populations and habitats. This information will enable the Council to make informed decisions where there is a potential impact on biodiversity.