



## BIODIVERSITY POLICY

In accordance with the legal duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, Badger Farm Parish Council (BFPC) will in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving and increasing biodiversity.

The aim of the statutory duty is to raise the profile of biodiversity in England and Wales, so the conservation of biodiversity becomes properly embedded in all relevant policies and decisions made by public authorities.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

To meet these objectives above BFPC commits to:

1. Working in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the parish.
2. Encouraging practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity when awarding grants.
3. Raising public awareness of biodiversity issues through its website, social media pages and newsletters.
4. Conserving as far as possible, the biodiversity of the land it manages or co-manages in conjunction with other bodies. It will adopt beneficial practices with regard to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work. Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
5. Involving the community in biodiversity projects including maintenance of wild flower reserves, plant surveys, the creation of wildlife maps, birdbox making.
6. When commenting on planning applications, supporting site and building design which benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. BFPC will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.

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