BARLASTON PARISH COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

BPC01-11

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Revision History

This document was originally written by:

Name	**Position**	**Date**
Vivien O'Dunne	Clerk	June 2026

This document was reviewed by:

The Parish Council	9 June 2026

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The Parish Council at their meeting on	9 June 2026

Document Review schedule:

Next Mandatory Review by	June 2028

Version	**Issue Date**	**Document ID**	**Reason for Change**	**Section changed**
1	9 June 2026	BPC01-11	New Policy	

1. Introduction

Barlaston Parish Council recognises the importance of biodiversity and the role that local councils can play in protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Biodiversity refers to the variety of living organisms, including plants, animals, insects, fungi and the habitats that support them.

The Council acknowledges its responsibilities under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as strengthened by the Environment Act 2021, which requires public authorities to have regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity when carrying out their functions.

The Council recognises that a healthy natural environment contributes to the wellbeing of residents, supports wildlife, improves resilience to climate change and helps maintain the character of the parish.

This policy sets out the Council's commitment to supporting biodiversity and identifying opportunities to conserve and enhance nature within Barlaston.

2. Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to:

- Comply with the Council's statutory biodiversity duty
- Protect and enhance biodiversity where opportunities arise
- Consider biodiversity in Council decisions and activities
- Support sustainable environmental management
- Encourage community awareness and involvement in biodiversity initiatives

3. Scope: This policy applies to:

- Land and property owned or managed by the Parish Council
- Grounds maintenance and landscaping activities commissioned by the Council
- Council projects, services and initiatives
- Partnerships and community projects supported by the Council where appropriate

4. Commitments: The Council will seek to:

4.1 Habitat Protection and Enhancement

- Protect existing habitats under its ownership or management where reasonably practicable
- Identify opportunities to improve biodiversity on Council-owned land
- Encourage the planting of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers where appropriate
- Maintain and enhance areas that support pollinators and wildlife
- Avoid unnecessary removal of established vegetation wherever possible

4.2 Sustainable Land Management

- Consider environmentally sensitive approaches to grounds maintenance
- Reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemicals where practical alternatives are available
- Encourage contractors working on behalf of the Council to adopt environmentally responsible practices

4.3 Planning and Development

• Consider biodiversity implications when responding to planning applications
• Support developments that protect, retain or enhance habitats and wildlife
• Encourage measures that contribute to biodiversity net gain where appropriate
• Support the retention of mature trees, hedgerows and other important ecological features

4.4 Community Engagement

• Promote biodiversity initiatives within the parish
• Support community groups and volunteers undertaking biodiversity projects
• Encourage residents to participate in environmental improvement activities
• Raise awareness of actions that individuals and organisations can take to support biodiversity

5. Practical Actions

The Council will, where resources permit, consider actions such as:

• Tree and hedge planting
• Creation or enhancement of wildflower areas
• Installation of bird, bat and insect boxes
• Protection and management of existing green spaces
• Supporting community environmental projects
• Participation in local or national environmental initiatives
• Working with partners to improve habitats and biodiversity within the parish

The Council recognises that actions will be subject to available resources, land ownership, ecological advice where necessary and operational considerations

6. Partnership Working

The Council will seek to work with local authorities, environmental organisations, community groups, volunteers and other stakeholders where opportunities arise to protect and enhance biodiversity within the parish.

7. Monitoring and Review

The Council will periodically review opportunities to enhance biodiversity within its activities and on land under its control.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required by changes in legislation or Council priorities.

David Borasinski 09 June 2026
Chairman – Barlaston Parish Council Date