2026

Deddington Parish Council

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BIODIVERSITY POLICY

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Version: Original (January 2026)

Policy adopted: January 2026

Review: 2028

Deddington Parish Council Biodiversity Policy

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area.
The full Council and its working groups will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.
In particular, the Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

Planning applications

The Council will:

- 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 will 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.

Land and property management

The Council will:

- carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings.
- consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work, paying attention to the Government's regulations for plant protection products.
- 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.
- source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use.
- consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local community

The Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations (e.g. English Heritage) to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

MONITORING

This policy was adopted on 21 January 2026 and will be reviewed in two years or sooner should legislation dictate. We aim to publish annually a summary of how the policy has been implemented, with reference to the original biodiversity audit to show progress.

ACTION PLAN

Site / Objective	*Action*	*Outcome*	*Target (years)*	*Reporting / Publicity*
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity	Gain local support for action	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity	Connect and diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Mapping
Cemetery	Additional planting Maintain and renew bird boxes as required Adopt a plan to support wildlife and diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance Leave leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals Encouraging insects particularly butterflies and bees	Ongoing	
Playgrounds	Sympathetically maintain hedging Leave some areas unmown Use environment-friendly pesticides only, where absolutely necessary and in ideal weather	Food sources and cover Encourages insects Sustain and enhance natural habitats	Ongoing	
Castle Grounds / other open spaces	Adopt a management plan Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs Work with the county council on verge management, favouring biodiversity but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after, making it clear what is	Sustain and enhance natural habitats Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats Regular attention	Ongoing	

	expected, e.g. peat-free compost and no chemicals				
The built landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries	Protecting/enhancing habitats Extending habitats	Ongoing		
We aim to increase community awareness of biodiversity by	Asking residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity Raising awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine Creating a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links Encouraging local farmers to contribute Providing seed bombs/ bulbs, etc. for residents' use Discouraging floodlighting	Engagement/ownership of biodiversity Promote biodiversity Promote biodiversity Promote biodiversity Extending habitats Protect nocturnal animals	Ongoing	Consultation in review of Neighbourhood Plan	
Support community projects	Support hedge/tree planting in appropriate areas Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations	Extending habitats Promote biodiversity Promote biodiversity			

APPENDIX A: Biodiversity Measures in the Parish of Deddington, 2026

- *Grass and hedge cutting*: 3yr contract, action, schedule, map
- *Sports pitches*: on separate 3-yr contract, action, schedule, map
- *Weedkiller:* Only a licensed operator with approved chemicals is used
- *No Mow May/June*: action, schedule, map, Goose Green orchids
- *Tree management survey*: every five years
- *Tree management policy:* scheduled work April–August only (exceptions for H&S reasons)
- *Planning applications for tree removal:* recommendations that any removed trees be replaced
- *S106 agreements*: e.g. North of Fire Station site 2026, Open Space agreement
- *Neighbourhood Plan:* Policy 9 (Green Infrastructure) and Policy 10 (Satin Lane Allotments and Local Green Space)
- *Allotments:* Satin Lane. Deddington and Hempton
- *Green spaces*: Goose Green, Gaveston Green, Welford's Piece, Windmill Street Green, Mill Close Green
- *Clifton orchard*: planting and maintenance of trees and wildflowers, Wassail
- *Daeda's Wood*: first 'Woods on your Doorstep', Friends of DW, now managed by Woodland Trust
- *Castle Grounds*: Friends, wildflower bank, work with English Heritage on path maintenance
- *Pocket Park:* hedgehog hotel, wildflower area
- *Cemetery:* wildflower area
- *Parish churchyard:* work with local PCC on NMMJ area
- *Hempton Road horse chestnuts:* working with OCC to replace any diseased trees (canker) to preserve this local legacy
- *Windmill Centre:* swift boxes
- *Annual Clifton Farm Walk*
- *Work with local uniformed groups*: planting bulbs and wildflower seeds
- *Litter and dog-waste bins:* Extensive use (litter bins emptied by Parish-employed stewards; dog-waste bins emptied by Cherwell District Council)