

St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Brockweir Parish Councils

Biodiversity Policy

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Brockweir Parish Councils (hereinafter referred to as the Councils) which have any functions exercisable in relation to England must consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective. This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

DEFINITION

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work together towards protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of both Councils' closely connected areas. Each Council and any committees of both Councils will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions, and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

The Council's will work together to protect and enhance biodiversity in a number of ways as listed in the parish biodiversity plan from which actions, rationale, timing, indicators of success, and key co-benefits will be identified.

The Councils' will consider measures under their direct control, indirect control and those that it can influence through partnership.

Some of the aims will consider:

- the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- the management of land, property and assets using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- supporting local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact and nature-positive practices.
- encouraging and supporting other organisations within the parishes to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- supporting residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

The St Briavels, Hewelsfield and Brockweir Parish Biodiversity Full Action Plan is provided separately.

MONITORING

This policy was adopted in August 2024 and will be reviewed in two years or sooner should legislation dictate, each year at the Annual Meeting. A summary of how the policy has been implemented and the action plan delivered, will be published annually, with reference to the original biodiversity audit, to show progress.

Signed:

Signed:

Chair – Hewelsfield & Brockweir Parish Council

Chair - St Briavels Parish Council