



## Biodiversity Policy

### Our Aim

Great Missenden Parish Council cares for the environment through its own practices and by encouraging others. The council will endeavour to be as reasonable as possible about biodiversity, conservation and the use of resources and recycling.

### Introduction

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 Great Missenden Parish Council will fulfil this duty.

Biodiversity is the variety of life around us 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. 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.

### Action

- The council will, as far as is reasonably possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it owns and manages. It will adopt beneficial practices with regard to the cutting and removal of vegetation, especially grass verges, 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.
- The council will be mindful of the importance of 'connectedness' between fragments of habitat, and will ensure that wildlife corridors (often not initially obvious) are preserved.
- The council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land. The council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity within the parish.
- In considering planning applications the council will take particular account of the impact on biodiversity.

This policy was written in conjunction with the biodiversity audit, plan and recommendations provided by Cllr V Marshall 02.07.18.

This policy will be reviewed annually from date of adoption.

**Date of adoption: 09.07.18**

**Reviewed: June 2021**

**Reviewed: February 2023**

**Reviewed: February 2025 – next due 2027**