

# Terrington Parish Council

## Policy to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Parish

Biodiversity refers to the variety and variability of different kinds of life in an area. The State of Nature Report 2023 tells us that the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth with significant loss of its plants, animals and fungi with the result that nearly 1 in 6 species in Great Britain are threatened with extinction. See <https://stateofnature.org.uk/>

The benefits of protecting and enhancing biodiversity are well-documented, and include improved health and wellbeing, increased resilience in the face of natural disasters and enhanced agricultural sustainability. In recognition of the benefits of preserving and enhancing biodiversity, the Environment Act 2021 places a statutory duty upon all public authorities, including Parish Councils, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to put in place a policy and action plan with objectives.

Terrington Parish Council (TPC) has considered its duty and resolves:

1. To enhance biodiversity on land owned by the Council (ie the Cemetery).
2. To give full consideration to biodiversity issues when reviewing all planning applications relating to the Parish and to make appropriate recommendations to the planning authority, with a view to achieving a net biodiversity gain.
3. When inviting tenders and placing contracts, to state TPC's commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity and to invite potential contractors and agents to specify how they would support the policy.
4. To develop a Neighbourhood Plan that gives full consideration to TPC's commitment and duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
5. To influence and shape the long-term approach to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity across the Parish by:
  - raising awareness of the threats to nature and the benefits of conservation and enhancement of diversity;
  - engaging the community in establishing the current level of biodiversity in the Parish in order to provide a baseline from which progress can be assessed across the Parish against measurable objectives;
  - building understanding and visibility of activities already being undertaken to maintain and enhance biodiversity.
  - widely supporting new activities which aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity, publicising initiatives already underway and encouraging their extension and replication more in the Parish, giving prominence to community-led and community-building initiatives;
  - using its influence in supporting and endorsing funding applications to other bodies;
  - taking steps to inform residents and increase understanding of the possible impact, both positive and negative, of major initiatives which might at some future date be brought to the Parish for consideration, such as major building

schemes, solar farms, wind farms, rewilding, and reintroductions of species and ascertaining what positions residents might wish to take with regard to such initiatives.

6. To regularly (biennially or more frequently) review its Biodiversity Policy, ensuing Action Plan, and objectives.

Approved by TPC on 12 December 2023.