

KEGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy



Approved by:	Full Council	Date: August 2024
Last reviewed:	August 2024	
Next review due:	August 2027	

Introduction

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils, to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making.

This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021, so public authorities must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance requires all public authorities to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024.

They must agree their policies and objectives as soon as possible after this and must reconsider the selected actions within five years of completing their previous consideration, or more frequently if they choose.

The Local Area

Kegworth Parish Council is a semi-rural village in Leicestershire, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland, open spaces, and the River Soar at its boundary.

Parish Council Responsibilities

The Parish Council owns the following land:

- Kegworth Cemetery on Whatton Road
- King George V Playing Field on Nottingham Road
- Side Ley Park
- Whatton Road Play Area
- Play areas at Whiteholmes Grove, Munnmoore Close and Windmill Way
- A piece of common land known as The Flash, off Mill Lane
- Three allotment sites on Station Road, Sideley and School Alley
- A piece of land on Long Lane

In addition, the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of St Andrew's churchyard.

Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area. The Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

Actions

The Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially 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.
- Manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity. 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 care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- It will review how it manages the land it owns. This may include:
 - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required
 - Considering a margin of uncut grass around the hedges
 - Allowing fallen tree branches to remain, if safe, to allow invertebrates to inhabit
 - Leaving areas of wildflowers uncut until the flowering cycle is complete
- Work with other agencies, as appropriate.

Monitoring and Review

This policy was adopted on 2 September 2024 and will be reviewed in three years, or sooner should legislation dictate.