



BURTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT



In accordance with the duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006¹, Burton Green Parish Council acknowledges that it will, in exercising its functions have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving and increasing biodiversity within the Parish.

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth². It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake, and human survival depends upon it. 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.

The Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity of the natural habitat when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required

In accordance with policy BG3 of the Burton Green Neighbourhood Development Plan³ (NDP), the Council will not support development unless it minimises the impact on biodiversity and provides net gains in biodiversity wherever possible. The NDP also requires that development should safeguard and enhance the natural environment, protect priority species and enhance habitats and their biodiversity.

The Parish Council will, as far as is possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages.⁴ It will strive to adopt beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, 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 Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land and will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website.

Adopted by Burton Green Parish Council at its meeting on 20th November 2023

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

² As defined in ‘Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England’s wildlife and ecosystems’ by DEFRA

³ <https://www.burtongreenparishcouncil.org/neighbourhood-plan.html>

⁴ The land managed by Burton Green Parish Council is the Red Lane play area and the Burow Hill playing field and car park at Green Leek Lane.