



# **WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

Serving Wellington & Rockwell Green

## **Wellington Town Council Nature Recovery Plan**

Biodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of life on Earth. This includes animals, plants and fungi as well as recognisable wildlife such as birds, mammals and insects. The habitats are the places they live and how they interact with their surroundings as part of the ecosystem. Conserving biodiversity involves restoring and enhancing species populations and habitats as well as implementing measures to promote them in the future. The value of biodiversity extends beyond habitat and species with the benefits extending to a range of economic, social and intrinsic values.

Wellington Town Council recognises the crucial role biodiversity plays in sustaining healthy ecosystems, supporting the wellbeing of residents, and contributing to the fight against climate change. This policy outlines the Council's commitment to protecting, enhancing, and promoting biodiversity across the town.

### **1. Council Statement**

1.1. Wellington Town Council recognises the importance of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. As stewards of the environment, we are committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity within our town. Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020). The Town Council has significant opportunity to conserve and further enhance local biodiversity due to our management of multiple open spaces; 65 Acre site known as the Green Corridor, the playing field, the Rec the Park, and two Allotment sites. The council's wider operations including outdoor maintenance, events, public play areas and other open spaces across the town also adds to our environmental responsibilities, whilst simultaneously creating opportunities to raise awareness and implement environmentally protective and enhancing strategies.

## **2. Aims and Objectives of the Policy**

- 2.1.** This policy applies to all employees and Councillors and all working parties with Wellington Town Council.
- 2.2.** The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity within the area Wellington Town Council maintain.
- 2.3.** The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions.
- 2.4.** Consideration will be given to the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- 2.5.** Land management will incorporate environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- 2.6.** The Council will where possible support local businesses and communities by encouraging them to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- 2.7.** Council operations will be undertaken with low impact / nature positive practices in mind.

## **3. Actions**

### **3.1. Planning applications**

The Council will:

- 3.1.1.** 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.
- 3.1.2.** Support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- 3.1.3.** Consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.

### **3.2. Land and property management The Council will:**

- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity regarding the management of open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Take special care in the specification of grounds and building maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching

acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.

- Where practicable, source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use.

### **3.3 Local community**

The Council will:

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website, newsletter, social media channels and at events.
- Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how they can make a positive difference.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land and at events.

### **3.4 Partners**

The Council will:

- Work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area. Biodiversity Policy, Somerset Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust and Seasons Ecology.
- Review local nature recovery strategies, species conservation or protected site strategies and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.
- Create and take into consideration the council's Biodiversity 'action plan'. This is a working document detailing what actions can be taken to support biodiversity within daily operations and when running projects and events.

### **3.5. Other Actions**

- Wellington Town Council have also turned over some of their flower beds into more sustainable planting with pollinator plants Photo A. We have also planted living walls in the Town Centre to help to sequester carbon, Photo B
- Wellington Town Council will add additional hedgerows and dry hedges where possible to help with nature recovery. This will be undertaken by Volunteers and working parties in the Green Corridor with consultation with TTW and Somerset Wildlife Trust.

**List of Appendices - Can be obtained from Open Spaces Manager if required.**

Appendix A – Wellington Green Corridor Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment.

Appendix B – Wellington Park and Recreation Ground Ecological Survey

Appendix C – Wellington Tree Strategy

Appendix D – Fox's Field Bioblitz Report

Appendix E – Fox's Field Bioblitz Results

Appendix F The Governments Nature Recovery Strategy

Appendix G – Somerset Wildlife Trust Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Appendix H – Green Corridor Development Plan

Appendix I – Grassland Management Strategy