

Woodham Walter Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

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Biodiversity Policy

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. It is widely recognised that we need to take more care of our natural world for our own survival.

Woodham Walter Parish Council recognises the significance of biodiversity to our surroundings and to our lives and the urgent need to focus attention on the protection of biodiversity throughout the community.

Further, the Parish Council shall specifically act in accordance with the Duty imposed on public authorities by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to conserve biodiversity.

As a Parish Council and within our local powers and according to all relevant legislation we will:

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions we make as a Council and through working groups, by seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity and identifying opportunities to increase biodiversity when and where practicable;
- Ensure that biodiversity is a focus of the Climate Action working group established as part of its Climate Action Statement;
- Encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity through grants that we make;
- Share advice and ideas for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within the Parish with residents generally, young and old;
- Support, where practicable, Essex County Council's and Maldon District Council's biodiversity programmes;
- Proactively remove invasive species on land that it owns as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species;
- Properly scale and time grounds maintenance work or vegetation removal such that the impact on biodiversity is minimised. Maintenance practices which are beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are placed.