



Burton upon Stather Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

In accordance with the Duty imposed on Parish Councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, Burton upon Stather Parish Council will in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are and the communities that they form. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services or lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

Burton upon Stather Parish Council will, as far as possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will 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.

When commenting on planning applications, the Parish Council will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. It will 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.

Burton upon Stather Parish Council undertakes to work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the Parish.

It will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues and where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity on land that it manages.