



Biodiversity Policy

1. Background

Langford Parish Council recognises its statutory duty to consider, conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions. This duty arises from Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and is reinforced by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, which requires public authorities to identify and deliver actions to support biodiversity.

This policy sets out how the Parish Council will meet its legal obligations and demonstrate good practice in biodiversity management.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Parish Council activities, including land and asset management, planning consultations, community initiatives, procurement, and strategic decision-making.

Although parish councils are not required to publish statutory biodiversity reports, the Council will maintain appropriate records to support transparency and good governance.

3. Definition of Biodiversity

In line with DEFRA guidance, biodiversity is defined as the variety of all living organisms, including plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms, which together support essential ecosystem services such as food production, clean water, air quality, climate regulation, pollination and wellbeing.

4. Local Context

Langford is a rural parish with a range of habitats typical of Oxfordshire, including farmland, hedgerows, small woodlands, streams, ditches, verges and gardens. These habitats support local wildlife and contribute to the character of the parish.

The Parish Council also recognises the importance of managing parish-owned land and assets, including allotments, burial grounds and public green spaces, in ways that support biodiversity.

5. Aims and Objectives

The Parish Council aims to:

- Integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant decisions and record them appropriately.
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity on land it owns or manages.
- Encourage and support biodiversity-positive action by residents, landowners and local organisations.
- Contribute, where appropriate, to Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Promote awareness of biodiversity and practical actions that support it.

6. Council Commitments

6.1 Decision-Making

The Parish Council will:

- Consider biodiversity impacts as part of relevant decisions.
- Record biodiversity considerations in minutes or supporting papers.
- Periodically review policies to ensure alignment with biodiversity objectives.

6.2 Land and Asset Management

Where the Parish Council owns or manages land, it will:

- Use management practices that support biodiversity, such as reduced mowing, native planting and wildflower areas.
- Protect existing habitats, hedgerows and watercourses.
- Control invasive species where necessary.
- Minimise the use of chemicals and adopt environmentally sensitive practices where possible.

6.3 Planning Consultations

In responding to planning applications, the Parish Council will:

- Support proposals that protect and enhance biodiversity.

- Consider impacts on habitats and wildlife, particularly protected or priority species.
- Encourage biodiversity net gain and wildlife-friendly design in new developments.

6.4 Community Engagement

The Parish Council will promote:

- Local conservation and volunteering initiatives.
- Citizen science activities and community surveys.
- Public awareness through parish communications and appropriate signage.

6.5 Partnership Working

The Parish Council will work with:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy coordinators.
- Conservation and wildlife organisations.
- District and county councils.
- Neighbouring parishes on landscape-scale initiatives.

7. Monitoring and Review

The Parish Council will review progress on biodiversity actions annually as part of its routine business. This policy will be reviewed at least every five years, or earlier if required by changes in legislation, guidance or local priorities. Records of actions and outcomes will be maintained.

8. Adoption and Review

This policy was adopted by Langford Parish Council on: 15th July 2026

Signed: *Ian Burton*

Chair, Langford Parish Council

Clerk, Langford Parish Council

Policy review date: 15th July 2031

Langford Parish Council Biodiversity Five-Year Action Plan (Summary)

Objective	Key Actions	Intended Outcome
Community awareness	Parish communications, website content, resident engagement, reduced lighting guidance	Increased engagement and support
Habitat enhancement	Native planting, reduced mowing, wildflower areas	Extended and improved habitats
Pollinator support	Wildflower verges, reduced mowing, bee-friendly planting	Strengthened pollinator corridors
Wildlife protection	Nest boxes, hedgehog initiatives, reduced pesticide use	Improved species survival
Water and wetland	Pond enhancement, garden ponds, rain gardens	Increased aquatic habitat and flood resilience
Community spaces	Biodiversity measures in allotments and shared spaces	Long-term habitat sustainability

Agreed and adopted at full meeting of Langford Parish Council 15 July 2026