



**GREAT
SANKEY**
PARISH
COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy

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1. Executive Summary

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. This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

Great Sankey Parish Council recognises the value biodiversity brings to all aspects of life; this policy sets out the council's commitment to developing biodiversity across its properties and encouraging the same in others.

2. Biodiversity Definition

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

3. Mission statement

"Great Sankey Parish Council is committed to making our green spaces more beautiful, sustainable and inspiring places to be for the wellbeing of our residents and visitors."

4. Aims & Objectives

The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular, the Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish and wider area to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

5. Landscape Management Plan

The Landscape Management Plan, adopted June 2023, details the council's Green Agenda, objectives and priorities along with a 5-year action plan. This plan will be subject to regular review with this policy forming the underlying principles on which actions are based.