



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Environmental & Biodiversity Policy

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving 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 important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. 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.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area. As the capital of the IW Biosphere, Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council cares for the environment through its own practices and by encouraging others.

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, where practicable, that will promote biodiversity.
- Raise awareness of biodiversity and local initiatives.

ACTIONS

Planning applications

The Council will:

- 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.
- 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.

Land and property management

The Council will:

- aim to carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings by the end of 2025.
- consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation (preferably composting or shredding), timing of maintenance work and minimising the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides.
- Explore, and apply where possible, appropriate solutions to maximise energy efficiency and reduce water consumption. This includes the turning off of machinery, lights and electrical appliances when not in use.
- Sourcing materials and services locally where possible.
- Ensure suppliers and contractors are aware of this environmental policy (such as providing them with a copy when they are asked for evidence of their public liability insurance).
- Planting trees and using indigenous species where possible.
- Encouraging the routine servicing and maintenance of equipment & plant to ensure efficient operation.

Administration

The Council will

- Only print/photocopy when necessary and recycle waste paper where possible. This includes the use of members digital devices at meetings to access meeting documents, as much as possible, to reduce the amount of printing required.

- Using a minimum number of promotional leaflets as is necessary and returning or recycling those that are not used.
- Encouraging the recycling of used ink cartridges and old mobile phones.
- Use of email or telephone as a preference to the postal service.

Local community

The Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- encourage and support other organisations within the *parish / town* to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting and wildflower meadows.

Partners

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

MONITORING

This policy was adopted on 7th October 2024 (Minute reference 3442) and will be reviewed in two years or sooner should legislation dictate.