



CLIPSTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 20 Styles Place, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire, NN6 6LR

Email: clerk@clipstonparishcouncil.org

Website: <http://www.clipstonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Biodiversity Policy

1. Purpose and Commitment

Clipston Parish Council recognises its legal duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, strengthened by the Environment Act 2021.

The Council is committed to supporting nature recovery within the parish and contributing to wider environmental priorities across West Northamptonshire.

The Council acknowledges that reversing biodiversity decline requires collective action and will work with residents, landowners, and partner organisations to protect and enhance the natural environment.

2. Legal and Policy Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Environment Act 2021 – strengthened biodiversity duty and Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.
 - DEFRA Biodiversity Duty Guidance (2025) – requiring public authorities to consider, set objectives, act, and review every five years.
 - Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for West Northamptonshire – identifying priority habitats, species, and areas for restoration.
 - Relevant policies within the parish’s Neighbourhood Plan.
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3. Policy Objectives

The Parish Council will:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity on all land it owns or manages.
 - Integrate biodiversity considerations into all planning consultations.
 - Support nature recovery through habitat creation, restoration, and improved land management.
 - Encourage and support community involvement in biodiversity projects.
 - Raise awareness of local wildlife and promote nature-friendly practices.
 - Align parish actions with the West Northamptonshire LNRS.
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4. Local Context

West Northamptonshire’s LNRS highlights the need to:

- Restore and connect habitats such as meadows, hedgerows, and riparian corridors.
- Support pollinators and farmland wildlife.
- Encourage nature-friendly land management.
- Strengthen ecological networks across rural and village landscapes.

These priorities will guide the Council’s biodiversity actions.



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5. Actions the Council Will Take

A. Land Management

Where the Council owns or manages land, it will:

- Enhance green spaces for wildlife through wildflower planting, reduced mowing, and habitat creation.
- Plant native trees, hedgerows, and wildflowers.
- Maintain and enhance habitats such as hedges, ponds, and woodland edges.
- Avoid unnecessary pesticide and herbicide use.
- Explore opportunities for meadow creation or rewilding.

B. Planning and Development

When responding to planning applications, the Council will:

- Consider biodiversity impacts and support developments that deliver measurable Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Encourage developers to align with LNRS priorities for habitat creation and connectivity.
- Protect important habitats identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

C. Community Engagement

The Council will:

- Promote biodiversity projects through parish communications.
- Encourage volunteer participation in habitat creation, planting, and monitoring.
- Work with schools, youth groups, and community organisations.
- Support residents undertaking wildlife-friendly initiatives.

D. Partnerships

The Council will collaborate with:

- West Northamptonshire Council and LNRS delivery partners.
- Local farmers and landowners to encourage nature-friendly practices.
- Wildlife groups, environmental organisations, and neighbouring parishes.
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6. Monitoring and Reporting

- The Council will review biodiversity actions at least every five years, in line with DEFRA guidance.
- Annual updates will be provided at Parish Council meetings.
- Progress will be measured against objectives and local habitat improvements.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if legislation or local priorities change.

ADOPTED ON: Draft under review May 2026