

# Brandsby cum Stearsby Parish Council

## Biodiversity Policy

- 1 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 imposes a **duty** on town and parish councils to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in exercising its functions. In accordance with this duty Brandsby cum Stearsby Parish Council, its members and staff will have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity when undertaking decisions or actions on behalf of the council.
- 2 Biodiversity describes the enormous variety of life on Earth. It can be used more specifically to refer to all species in one region or ecosystem. Biodiversity refers to every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans<sup>1</sup>. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks or “ecosystems”, that provide health, wealth, food, fuel and vital services life depends on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity, protecting environmental assets.
- 3 Brandsby cum Stearsby Parish Council has direct impact through maintaining the recreation ground, open green spaces, allotments and cemetery and indirect impact through use and choice of chemicals/materials used throughout its activities and carrying out its functions.

The Town Council biodiversity considerations and objectives will include – but not be restricted to:

- Assessing chemicals used/use of chemicals in general when maintaining council owned land/facilities, ensuring safe disposal.
- Restricting use of pesticides on open spaces and at allotments (allotment tenants encouraged to use natural methods to assist and protect biodiversity)
- Compost green waste produced from maintaining Brandsby cum Stearsby Parish Council land/facilities where possible.
- Consider best practice to support pollinators.
- Submit conditions to new build developments, both residential and commercial, to deliver biodiversity net gain above government minimums laid out in Environment Bill and planning policy. Supporting application site and building design elements that benefit biodiversity through conservation and integration of existing habitats or creation of new. Supporting protection of sensitive habitats and green areas listed within any adopted Neighbourhood Plan.
- Maintenance contract specifications will ensure work conducted is not detrimental to the natural environment whilst delivering acceptable standards of work delivered.
- Raising public awareness through the website, newsletters, and notice boards of biodiversity issues, involving the community where possible in biodiversity projects on land owned/maintained by council including tree/hedge planting, wildflower areas and habitat creations.

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<sup>1</sup> (National Geographic 2023)