

Harrietsham Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

Introduction

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, public authorities (including Parish Councils) have a duty to show regard for conserving biodiversity in all their actions.

According to Defra, biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, and includes all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them. Biodiversity is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity, and has an important role to play in developing locally distinctive and sustainable communities.

Conservation of biodiversity is vital in our response to climate change and in the delivery of key ecosystem services such as food, flood management, pollination and provision of clean air and water.

This Act and duty also means that Parish and Town Councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of the Harrietsham Parish area. The Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- manage its land using environmentally-friendly practices that balance public use and biodiversity;
- support local businesses & Council operations in the adoption of low impact practices;
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

Actions

- The Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement further policies and strategies as required.
- The Council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces.
- The Council will aim to support the development of environmentally friendly areas for residents.
- The Council will help to raise awareness of environmental issues and promote conservation projects in conjunction with appropriate bodies and residents.
- The Council will consider sustainability and biodiversity when engaging with the planning system.
- The Council will support businesses and the public regarding biodiversity projects within the community.
- The Council will manage its own operational duties to reduce its carbon footprint.