



FINSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted date	02/01/2024
Reviewed	03/2026

INTRODUCTION

Finstall Parish Council acknowledges the importance of preserving and enhancing biodiversity within our community. This policy aims to outline our commitment to safeguarding local ecosystems, promoting biodiversity, and integrating conservation efforts into our decision-making processes.

OBJECTIVES

Wherever possible, Finstall Parish Council will seek to:

1. **Preserve natural habitats** – through the protection and conservation of existing natural habitats within the parish.
2. **Promote Biodiversity** – by encouraging the proliferation of diverse flora and fauna species.
3. **Engage the Community** – by fostering awareness and engagement among residents to participate in biodiversity and conservation efforts.
4. **Practice Sustainability** – by incorporating sustainable practices in council operations to minimise negative impacts on biodiversity.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Finstall Parish Council will be guided by the following principles:

1. **Conservation:** we shall support the preservation of local biodiversity hotspots, including green spaces, woodlands, water bodies and wildlife corridors.
2. **Education and Outreach:** we shall support educational programmes and initiatives to raise awareness and encourage community involvement in biodiversity conservation.
3. **Partnerships:** we shall collaborate with local organisations, conservation groups and experts to make use of their expertise and resources for biodiversity initiatives.
4. **Planning and Development:** we shall integrate biodiversity considerations into our decision-making processes to ensure minimal adverse impact on the environment.
5. **Monitoring and Review:** we shall regularly monitor the effectiveness of biodiversity initiatives and policies, making adjustments as necessary to achieve objectives.

ACTIONS

Finstall Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

1. Consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications (A).
2. Arrange for regular biodiversity assessments to be carried out where possible on land to which we have access, to monitor the status of local ecosystems (B).
3. Support local community activities to enhance and promote biodiversity (C).
4. Establish and maintain wildlife-friendly areas by planting native vegetation and providing suitable habitats for wildlife.
5. Support initiatives that promote sustainable land management practices, such as organic gardening, reduction of pesticide use, and habitat restoration.

A. Planning applications: we shall-

- 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.
- Consider development proposals in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- Include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

B. Land and property management: we shall-

- Carry out a biodiversity audit of any/all of our landholdings.
- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of our open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices when cutting and removing vegetation, the application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Ensure special care is taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing any buildings.

C. Local community: we shall-

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through our website and newsletters.
- Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The Parish Council will implement this policy through collaboration with relevant stakeholders and regularly review its effectiveness. Adjustments will be made based on feedback, monitoring data, and changing circumstances to ensure ongoing commitment to biodiversity, sustainability and conservation.

~End~