

Ashton Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

Commitment: Ashton Parish Council recognises the importance of local biodiversity and is committed to **protecting and enhancing the natural environment within our parish**. We aim to support broader nature recovery efforts in West Northamptonshire.

Principles:

- To support and encourage **initiatives that benefit local wildlife and habitats**.
- To **raise awareness among residents** about the value of biodiversity and how they can help.
- To consider biodiversity in the management of any Parish Council owned land or assets.
- To work collaboratively with residents, local groups, and other authorities like West Northamptonshire Council.

Actions: Given our limited resources and land, Ashton Parish Council will focus on supporting actions within the community and managing any assets under our control:

1. **Encouraging Nature Recovery:** We will **support and encourage residents, schools, and local groups** undertaking projects like **planting native trees and plants, creating wildlife habitats**, and promoting **pollinator-friendly gardening**. This may include promoting existing initiatives or providing small grants where possible.
2. **Managing Parish Spaces:** If the Council manages any green spaces, we will seek opportunities to enhance them for wildlife, such as by **planting wildflowers**, considering **less aggressive mowing regimes**, or installing features like **bird boxes or bug hotels**. We will aim to manage these areas in an environmentally friendly way.
3. **Raising Awareness:** We will use our communication channels, such as newsletters or social media, to share information about local biodiversity and suggest **actions residents can take** to help. This might include promoting volunteer opportunities like **community clean-up events**.
4. **Collaboration:** We will collaborate with relevant organisations and West Northamptonshire Council on local nature recovery initiatives where feasible. We will also **consider biodiversity** when providing comments on planning applications where appropriate.
5. **Supporting Community Initiatives:** We will champion and support local community groups focused on environmental and nature projects.

Ashton Parish Council acknowledges that achieving significant biodiversity gains requires **collective action** involving the entire community. We commit to playing our part by supporting, encouraging, and enabling local efforts where possible.