



Biodiversity Statement

Adopted 26th April 2018 – Finance & General Purposes – Minute 1206

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1st Oct 2006. **Section 40** of the Act requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.

This duty extends to all public bodies the biodiversity duty of **Section 74** of the **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)**, which placed a duty on Government and Ministers.

The aim of the biodiversity duty is to raise the profile of biodiversity in England and Wales, so that the conservation of biodiversity becomes properly embedded in all relevant policies and decisions made by public authorities.

Folkestone Town Council will have regard to the environmental implications of development; will not support development that would materially harm protected species of animal or plant, or its habitat; and will promote and encourage enhancement of the environment.

Folkestone Town Council will seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity within Folkestone and that development that results in harm to, or loss of, features of interest for biodiversity will not be permitted.

Folkestone Town Council will be guided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2014 when reviewing planning applications. The NPPF emphasises that the purposes of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and that this gives rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles, such as contributing to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment and helping to improve biodiversity.

Folkestone Town Council will also be guided by the Natural England.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>