



Biodiversity Statement

Adopted on 14 November 2024 – Full Council – Minute 2129

Purpose

Folkestone Town Council will contribute to preserving and enhancing biodiversity in the town where it is able to, either directly or indirectly through working with its partners / communities.

Considerations

The Town Council will consider the biodiversity implications of its actions with a view to:

- Protecting and conserving biodiversity
- Enhancing biodiversity where the opportunity arises.

This is in recognition of:

- The duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- The Biodiversity Duty - Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 places a general duty on public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- The Town Council's own corporate objectives to improve the local environment and contribute to wider environmental climate change goals.

Objectives

Specifically, the Town Council will:

- Work closely with the allotment associations to seek to ensure that biodiversity on the allotment sites is conserved and enhanced through good environmental practice.
- Give due consideration to biodiversity issues when responding to planning consultations, to see to ensure that opportunity to preserve and enhance biodiversity are addressed and delivered through the planning process as guided by the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Encourage good biodiversity practice through its awarding of community grants, where this is relevant to the project / activity being undertaken.
- Promote and raise awareness of biodiversity issues and good practice as part of its routine communications activities.
- Seek to ensure biodiversity issues are addressed appropriately when the Town Council is undertaking partnership work in relation to the future of the town.
- Work with Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Kent County Council in relation to street trees (including financial support for enhanced maintenance and planting of street trees), recognizing their contribution to the urban environment and biodiversity.