



Coningsby Town Council

Biodiversity Policy March 2026 Minute Ref: 25/26 -

Background:

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*, as updated by Section 102 of the *Environment Act 2021*, Coningsby Town Council (hereafter referred to as “the Council”), which has functions exercisable in relation to England, must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.

This duty also enables town and parish councils to spend funds on conserving biodiversity.

Definition:

According to Defra (*Biodiversity 2020*), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value extends further. Biodiversity forms the building blocks of ecosystems that provide a wide range of goods and services supporting economic and social wellbeing.

These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, as well as less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, climate regulation, water purification, and pollination of crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural benefits, enriching our lives and communities.

Aims and Objectives:

The objective of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing biodiversity within the Coningsby area.

Coningsby Town Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular, the Council will aim to improve biodiversity in the area by:

- Considering the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- Managing its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity.



- Supporting local businesses and Council operations in adopting low-impact and nature-positive practices.
- Encouraging and supporting other organisations within the town to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- Supporting residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

Actions

Planning Applications:

The Council will:

- When commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or the provision of new habitats.
- Support protection of sensitive habitats from development and consider whether development would result in the loss of important wildlife habitats.
- Consider what each proposed development might contribute in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- Include policies supporting biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan where applicable.

Land and Property Management:

The Council will:

- Carry out a biodiversity audit of land it owns or manages where appropriate.
- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity when managing open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices relating to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals, and the timing of maintenance work, while complying with Government regulations for plant protection products.
- Take special care when specifying grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that work meets acceptable standards without harming the natural environment.
- Source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for Council use wherever possible.
- Consider biodiversity issues when managing Council-owned buildings and facilities and implement improvements where appropriate.



Local Community:

The Council will:

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues through its website, newsletters and other communications.
- Engage with local businesses, community groups and residents regarding biodiversity and how members of the community can make a positive difference.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on Council land, such as tree planting, wildflower meadow creation, and bird or bat box initiatives.

Partners:

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the town.

This may include reviewing local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of nearby Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and considering how the Council may contribute to implementing relevant recommendations.

Monitoring and Review:

This policy was adopted by Coningsby Town Council on 26.03.2026.

The policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if required due to changes in legislation.