



## **Keynsham Town Council Biodiversity Policy**

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi, but may also be used to describe the variety of life in one area or ecosystem. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems to maintain balance and support life.

Public Authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance Biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'Biodiversity Duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces.

This means that, as a Public Authority, we must:

1. Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance Biodiversity.
2. Agree a policy and specific objectives based on our consideration.
3. Act to deliver our policy and achieve our objectives.

**Keynsham Town Council owns, leases or is an Authority that cares for the following land parcels on which it could increase Biodiversity.**

- **The Paddock**
- **Fox and Hounds Lane**
- **Keynsham Cemetery**
- **Manor Road playing fields**
- **Holmoak play area**
- **Kelston play area**
- **Teviot play area**
- **Park Road play area**
- **Downfields play area**
- **Upper Memorial play area**
- **Lower Memorial play area**

Keynsham Town Council **aims** to improve the Biodiversity of the Town in the following ways:

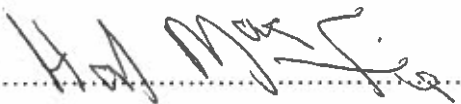
- To follow the KTC Environment and Sustainability Plan.
- To raise the profile of Biodiversity within the Town
- To make Biodiversity an integral part of all relevant decision making
- Support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote Biodiversity.

Keynsham Town Council **objectives** are to:


- Protect and support the Biodiversity of land that the Council can influence.
- Increase community awareness of Biodiversity issues.
- Support local Biodiversity projects.
- The Council will communicate information and raise awareness through its website and social media channels.
- The Council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits Biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. It will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.

## Amendment History

Paragraph	Detail	Committee or Town Council	Approval date
Original	Initial version	E & S Committee	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Original	Adopted	Town Council	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Review due			January 2026

Signed.....  
Chair of Council

Date.....16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Signed.....  
Town Clerk

Date.....16<sup>th</sup> January 2024