

IRBY UPON HUMBER PARISH COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Date Policy Agreed	4th November 2026
Date of Next Review	November 2028
Signature (Chair)	Mick Moody
Signature (Clerk)	Jane Thomson

Introduction:

In accordance with the Duty imposed on Parish Councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, Irby Upon Humber Parish Council will in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. It is widely recognised that we need to be more connected to the natural world for our own survival. Biodiversity is also important in maintaining the resilience of the services nature provides to us, such as carbon sequestration.

Irby Upon Humber Parish Council recognises the importance of biodiversity in maintaining healthy ecosystems, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing the overall well-being of their community. As a responsible local governing body, they are committed to safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity within their parish. This Biodiversity Policy outlines their commitment, objectives, and strategies to achieve sustainable biodiversity management.

Objectives:

1.Promote Awareness:

Raise awareness within the community about the importance of biodiversity, its benefits, and the role individuals and the Parish Council play in its conservation.

2. Preservation of Natural Habitats:

Identify and protect key natural habitats within the parish, ensuring they are managed sustainably to support local flora and fauna.

3. Species Protection:

Implement measures to protect and promote the well-being of local wildlife, including endangered or threatened species. This may involve habitat restoration, creation of wildlife corridors, and collaboration with conservation organizations.

4. Sustainable Land Management:



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Encourage sustainable land management practices, including responsible agricultural and forestry practices that minimise negative impacts on biodiversity.

5. Green Spaces and Biodiversity:

Enhance green spaces within the parish to support biodiversity, promoting the planting of native vegetation, creation of pollinator-friendly spaces, and maintenance of wildlife-friendly open spaces.

6. Education and Engagement:

Develop educational programs and initiatives to engage residents, schools, and businesses in biodiversity conservation efforts, fostering a sense of responsibility and connection to the local environment.

7. Biodiversity in Planning:

The Parish Council will Integrate biodiversity considerations into parish planning processes, ensuring that new developments are designed and implemented with minimal impact on local ecosystems.

8. Invasive Species Management: Implement measures to control and manage invasive species that may threaten the native flora and fauna of the parish.

9. Monitoring and Reporting:

Establish a monitoring system to assess the state of biodiversity within the parish, regularly reporting findings to the community and adapting strategies as needed.

Implementation:

The Parish Council will work collaboratively with local residents, community groups, environmental organisations, and relevant authorities to implement this Biodiversity Policy. Resources, both financial and human, will be allocated to support biodiversity initiatives and projects. The Parish Council will consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions they make through committees and working groups, seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity of activity and identifying opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable. The Parish Council will, as far as is reasonably possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work. Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment. The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land. The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website.

Review:

This Biodiversity Policy will be reviewed regularly, at least every 3 years, to ensure its effectiveness, relevance, and alignment with any changes in legislation or community needs.