



Bramley (Hampshire) Parish Council Biodiversity Policy

Background

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils that manage land, to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

This means a public authority must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) *UK biodiversity 2020 Strategy*¹ states that 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 human survival depends upon it”.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Parish Biodiversity Action Plan² and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Scope

This Policy applies to the entirety of the Parish of Bramley (defined as the Local area), which includes all assets (land and built environment) owned by the Parish Council but excludes land and assets managed on behalf of a third party.

This Policy also applies to all Bramley Parish Councillors, Parish Council employees, and Parish Council sub-contractors.

Our ambition

- To enhance and protect biodiversity within the Parish.
- To make biodiversity an integral part of all decision making.
- To involve and enable the community to connect with nature.

Priorities for action: What the Council will do

1) Promoting biodiversity in planning and development

- In line with the UK *Environment Act 2021*³ and *Climate Emergency Declaration of Basingstoke & Deane Council (B&DC)*⁴, the impact on biodiversity and sustainability on the decisions made through the Parish Council will be considered and incorporated into comments on planning applications. This should include but not be limited to biodiversity net gain considerations, building features that promote biodiversity such as swift or bee bricks, promoting creation

¹ [Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services \(DEFRA\)](#)

² The Biodiversity Action Plan is a separate document supported by the Biodiversity Policy

³ [Environment Act 2021](#) is UK Government Legislation that is legally enforceable.

⁴ The BDBC Climate Emergency was declared on 10th September 2019, meeting minutes [HERE](#).



and maintenance of habitats at the site such as new trees, hedgerows, ponds or meadows, and promoting sustainable energy features.

- Bramley Neighbourhood Plan⁵ commitments to protect and enhance the historic character and rural setting of the village and its natural environment and to minimize the environmental impact of new development should also be considered.

2) Showing regard for biodiversity on Parish Council managed land and buildings

- Manage its land using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity, with regular reviews undertaken of best practices to monitor for improvement. Examples include ensuring trees or hedges are cut outside of bird nesting season, leaving leaf litter and dead wood as habitats, and reducing grass mowing where possible.
- Cease the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilisers (except for exceptional circumstances).
- Encourage Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) to exercise their responsibilities as per their own biodiversity policies.
- Seek to understand the impact of the Biodiversity Policy implementation in the Local Area through regular surveying of its land, including at baseline, to monitor for biodiversity progress.
- Collect and maintain publicly accessible and transparent records on Biodiversity to supplement housing comments and maximise actions for nature.
- Seek opportunities and/or apply for funding (e.g. from BDBC, HCC, charities or other sources) to support and enhance biodiversity.

3) Protected sites

- The Parish Council commits to encourage Borough and County Authorities to use their powers to preserve, enhance, and restore biodiversity. The Parish Council will support those Authorities in the application of their powers by reporting identified problems within the Parish including:
 - Protected designation areas: Working with landowners to ensure areas of significance are actively managed for nature e.g., local SINCs, SSSIs, TPOs, RVEIs etc.
 - Biodiversity Priority Areas (BPAs), as set out by BDBC Green Infrastructure Strategy⁶ and Living Landscapes Strategy⁷: This includes the River Loddon Basin, which includes the Bow Brook and all other tributaries that run through Bramley.

4) Green infrastructure

- In line with the BDBC Green Infrastructure Strategy⁸, the Parish Council will promote and support creation and protection of wildlife corridors and green networks between the different habitat sites in Bramley using such powers as it has to support Borough and County initiatives

5) Putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy

- Understand the natural assets that matter to the community.
- Engage with and support residents, landowners and local organisations in activities and/or initiatives to enhance and promote biodiversity.

⁵ [Bramley Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011 - 2029](#)

⁶ [Green Infrastructure Strategy for Basingstoke & Deane Council \(2018 to 2029\)](#)

⁷ [BD&C Living Landscapes Strategy 2014](#)



BRAMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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- Communicate information and raise awareness of nature via the Parish Council website and through other available communication channels.

Policy adopted in July 2024

To be reviewed July 2025