



Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council

Goldsmith Centre, 259 Sprotbrough Road,
Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 8BP

T: (01302) 788093

E: clerk@sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

W: www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

POLICY TITLE

Biodiversity Policy

ADOPTION DATE

18th January 2024

POLICY AIM

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area. The Full 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 the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- encourage and support other organisations within Sprotbrough and Cusworth manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

POLICY

1. Background

1.1 Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Town and Parish Councils 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.

1.2 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 .

1.3 Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea.

1.4 This policy will be read in conjunction with the adopted Parish Council Tree Management Policy which sets out how the Parish Council manages the trees location on the sites owned by the Parish Council.

2. The Local Area

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council is an urban area, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland and woodland. This includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Sprotbrough Gorge and a historic park and garden – Cusworth Hall.

3. Parish Council responsibilities

3.1 The Parish Council owns numerous areas of land, including; New Lane recreation site, Sprotbrough, Goldsmith Centre recreation site and community centre, Sprotbrough, Anchorage Park recreation site, Sprotbrough, Newlands recreation site, Cusworth and five allotments off Windsor Walk, Scawsby.

3.2 The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of these site including grass cutting and woodland management. The Parish Council is also ultimately responsible for the provision and updating of the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan, supported by the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan Group formed in 2017.

3.3 The Parish Council will;

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made by the Parish Council.
- It will reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land wherever possible.
- Take special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- Source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use
- Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.
- It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.
- When commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.

- 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.
- Consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- It will review how it manages all sites which may include, but is not limited to;
 - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
 - Tree maintenance and hedge cutting takes place twice a year. All hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season.
 - The Parish Council will look to purchase and install additional bird boxes/ bee hotels on appropriate Parish Council owned trees.
 - The Parish Council will look to raise public awareness of biodiversity issues via the Parish Council website and social media.
 - Engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
 - Involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land and within its remit, including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

IMPLEMENTATION

All staff and councillors have a responsibility to ensure that this policy is implemented.

MONITORING

The policy will be monitored in the following ways:

MONITORING ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Quarterly checks of compliance	Clerk
Quarterly monitoring of sites owned by Parish Council	Clerk/ Deputy Clerk/ All site staff

POLICY CONSULTATION

A copy of the policy has been given to all staff and Councillors.

POLICY REVISION DATE

Policy reviewed August 2024
Next review date August 2025

This document shall be reviewed annually; or upon any changes to legislation; or subject to the requirements of Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council.

RELATED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Tree Management Policy
Risk Assessment
Health and Safety Policy