

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

✉ **Postal Address:** Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA
☎ **Telephone:** (01727) 825 314
💻 **Website:** <https://colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk>
✉ **E-mail:** clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk



Biodiversity Policy

1. Introduction

This policy outlines how Colney Heath Parish Council ("the Council") will fulfil its duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity within its area, consistent with Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 and the Environment Act 2021.

2. Definition

Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth, encompassing species of animals, plants, and microorganisms. It is vital for ecosystem health, providing services essential to human wellbeing and environmental stability.

3. Aims and Objectives The Council aims to:

- Conserve and enhance biodiversity across the parish.
- Integrate biodiversity considerations into all decisions, policies, and practices.
- Promote awareness and active involvement of the community in biodiversity conservation.

4. Actions

4.1 Planning Applications

The Council will:

- Support designs and developments that conserve or enhance habitats.
- Advocate for biodiversity net gains in all planning applications.
- Protect sensitive habitats and species from harmful developments.
- Incorporate biodiversity-focused policies within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

4.2 Land and Property Management

The Council will:

- Manage its open spaces to support diverse habitats using eco-friendly practices.
- Specify biodiversity-friendly requirements in maintenance contracts.
- Use sustainable materials and practices in building and land management.
- Reduce the use of harmful chemicals and adopt natural pest control methods.

4.3 Community Engagement

The Council will:

- Raise awareness of biodiversity issues via its website, newsletters, and events.
- Collaborate with schools, businesses, and community groups on biodiversity initiatives.
- Facilitate community involvement in projects such as tree planting, creating wildflower meadows, and installing bird and bat boxes.

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL



Postal Address: Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA



Telephone: (01727) 825 314



Website: <https://colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk>



E-mail: clerk@colneyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk



4.4 Partnerships

The Council will:

- Work with conservation organisations to enhance local biodiversity.
- Engage with Hertfordshire County Council and other relevant bodies to implement local nature recovery strategies and conservation plans.
- Support initiatives that align with the goals of national biodiversity strategies.

5. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed annually or as required by legislative changes. Progress in implementing the policy will be summarised and made publicly available.

6. Adoption

This policy is adopted by Colney Heath Parish Council on 23rd January 2025 and will guide the Council in promoting a biodiversity-rich parish for current and future generations.