



Salesbury Parish Council's Biodiversity Policy

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Salesbury Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.

This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

DEFINITION

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), 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 has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops.

Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Parish of Salesbury. The Full Council and any committees or working parties 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:

- By considering the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- By encouraging and supporting Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC) to manage the common land and other land within the parish using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.

- By encouraging and supporting Lancashire County Council (LCC) to manage roadsides, verges and other land within the parish using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- By supporting local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- By encouraging and supporting other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- By supporting residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.
- By applying for available grants to fund biodiversity projects within the parish.

ACTIONS

Planning applications

The Council will:

- 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.
- include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

Land and property management

Salesbury Parish Council does not own any land or buildings. However, the Council will encourage and support LCC and RVBC to improve biodiversity of land these authorities own or manage within the parish by:

- encouraging the authorities to carry out biodiversity audits of land.
- Considering the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces.
- encouraging the adoption of beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work, paying attention to the Government's regulations for plant protection products.
- taking special care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment
- sourcing sustainable materials when procuring supplies for the Council's use

- considering biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing buildings.

Local Community

The Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects including for example tree planting and planting wildflowers.
- where feasible, involve the community in making, installing, maintaining and/or monitoring birdboxes, batboxes and hedgehog homes etc.

Partners

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the parish. It will review or assist in any review of local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

The Council will work in partnership with the contracted Lengthsman to ensure that authorised works are carried out with due regard to protecting and, where possible, enhancing the biodiversity of the parish.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Meeting. A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually (usually in the parish newsletter), to show progress.

Review

This policy was adopted on

Next review due May 2026