

MISTLEY PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Under the 2021 Environment Act, the Parish Council is committed to the following:

- Considers what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Notes what action in respect of biodiversity that is already taking place locally.
- Agrees what further steps and has ongoing reviews at least annually for biodiversity.
- Has contact with local voluntary groups working on nature conservation. E.g. The Dedham Vale National Landscape (formerly known as AONB – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), Manningtree Mermaids Against Sewage, and PACE (Practical Actions for Climate and Environment) Manningtree Area.
- As statutory consultee to the LPA (Local Planning Authority), the Council's Planning Committee ensures that it addresses biodiversity concerns, (as appropriate), when commenting on planning applications.

(Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, the Parish Council can legally spend on conserving biodiversity).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - The objective of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Mistley. The Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and update its policies and strategies as required. In particular, Mistley Parish 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 residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

Planning Applications

- The Council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- It will 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.
- It will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain.

Land and property management

- The Council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting 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.

Local Community

- The Council will raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and Facebook page.
- It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, and community orchards.

Partners

- Mistley Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of Mistley. These include Lawford Parish Council, Manningtree Town Council, Tendring District Council and Essex County Council.

This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Meeting, together with a summary of how the policy has been implemented in the previous twelve months.

ACTION PLAN

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Council land area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity.	Gain local support for action.	Ongoing	Website, Facebook & Meeting Minutes
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity.	Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Website, Facebook & Meeting Minutes
Cemetery / churchyard	Adopt a plan and work closely with our grounds maintenance contractor to support wildlife & diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance. (The Cemetery is a highly sensitive area).	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees.	Ongoing Ongoing	Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes
Recreation ground	Sympathetically maintain trees. Leave some areas unmown. Only use environment friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.	Food sources & cover Encourages insects. Sustain & enhance natural habitats.	Ongoing	Meeting Minutes
Common / other open spaces inc. Furze Hill Wood	Tree management plan. Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs.	Sustain & enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats	Ongoing	Website, Facebook Face-to Face interactions with residents and users & Meeting Minutes
SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the Local Development Plan and National Planning Policy. Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries.	Protecting/enhancing Habitats. Extending habitats.	Ongoing	Website.
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish. E.g. tree planting and Community Orchards etc.	Engagement/ownership of biodiversity Promote biodiversity.	Ongoing	Website, Facebook Face-to Face interactions with residents and users & Meeting Minutes
Support Community	Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas. E.g. Community	Extending habitats.	Ongoing.	Website, Facebook Face-to Face

Projects	<p>Orchards. (Furze Hill and River Reach sites).</p> <p>Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them.</p> <p>Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations. E.g. Tree planting and Community Orchard planting with allotment tenants and local residents etc.</p>	<p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p>		interactions with residents and users & Meeting Minutes
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Relevant Associated Policies:

[Statement Policy Re Biodiversity and Crime and Disorder MPC.pdf \(mistleyparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

[Tree Management Policy Mistley PC.pdf \(mistleyparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

[Tree Risk Assessment and Management in Mistley.pdf \(mistleyparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Review Body: Full Parish Council. Review period – annually each May. Adopted 04.11.24. Next Review Date May 2025.