



Biodiversity Policy

Biodiversity encompasses the wide range of species inhabiting Earth. Parish and Town Councils are crucial in promoting biodiversity within their communities.

St Nicholas Hurst Parish Council is committed to:

- Habitat preservation — Identifying and protecting local habitats such as woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. This involves managing these areas to maintain their ecological balance and prevent development encroachment;
- Green space management — Ensuring that green spaces within the Prish are managed to promote biodiversity. This includes maintaining diverse plant species, providing habitat for wildlife, and minimizing the use of pesticides and herbicides;
- Community engagement — Raising residents' awareness about the importance of biodiversity and encourage them to participate in conservation efforts. This could involve organizing educational events (e.g. to the allotments), volunteering opportunities, or community-led projects like tree planting or habitat restoration;
- Planning and development — Advocating for biodiversity-friendly practices in local planning and development decisions. This may include incorporating green infrastructure, such as wildlife corridors, into new developments and protecting existing green spaces from development;
- Wildlife monitoring — Collaborating with local conservation organisations or volunteer groups to monitor wildlife populations and track changes in biodiversity over time. This data can inform conservation efforts and help identify areas needing protection or restoration;
- Policy development — Developing and implementing policies that support biodiversity conservation, such as biodiversity action plans or green procurement policies. These policies can guide decision-making and ensure that biodiversity considerations are integrated into Parish Council activities and projects;
- Increasing tree coverage — Conducting tree surveys to assess the current tree canopy cover and identify areas with potential for tree planting. Develop a tree planting strategy that prioritises native tree species and considers factors such as soil quality, water availability, and potential ecological benefits; and
- Being members of organisations such as the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

Signed: *Penny Curry*

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