



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, Alcester Town Council acknowledges that it will, in exercising its functions have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services which our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

In accordance with policy NE2 of the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), the Town Council will not support development unless it minimizes the impact on biodiversity and provides net gains in biodiversity wherever possible. The NDP also requires that existing ecological networks should be retained and enhanced and that new ecological habitats and networks, measures to improve landscape quality, scenic beauty and tranquility and to reduce light pollution are encouraged.

The Town Council will, as far as is possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices regarding 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.

The Town Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting and wildflower meadows. The Town Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website, social media and newsletters.

Adopted by Alcester Town Council at its meeting on 3rd October 2023.