

## STRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

<b>MEETING</b>	Stretton Parish Council
<b>DATE</b>	Monday 11 March 2024
<b>ITEM No.</b>	Item 11
<b>REPORT BY</b>	Parish Clerk
<b>TITLE</b>	Biodiversity – Statutory Duty

### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

1.2 Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

1.3 Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the [Government guidance](#) requires all public authorities to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. They must agree their policies and objectives as soon as possible after this and must reconsider the selected actions within five years of completing their previous consideration, or more frequently if they choose.

### 2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 To comply with the guidance, Stretton Parish Council could as a minimum:

- note what action they are already taking to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree what further steps they should take to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- address biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications.

2.3 Other steps may include:

- Supporting any local voluntary groups working on nature conservation.
- Carrying out a biodiversity audit of Parish – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust can do this and their proposal for Stretton is attached.
- drafting an action plan that covers action that the council will take itself as well

as support for the actions of other local bodies.

- Agree a biodiversity policy for which the Dalc model example is attached.



Diversity%20Model  
%20Policy%20.docx

### 3. Proposals

- 3.1 To meet the statutory requirement by developing a diversity policy for Stretton that includes the following actions:
- a. Gather information on what action is already taking place in Stretton to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
  - b. Address biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications.
  - c. Agree a biodiversity policy for Stretton
  - d. Agree to research and consider examples of best practice carried out by similar councils and review additional actions

or

- 3.2 To meet the statutory requirement by developing a diversity policy for Stretton that includes the following actions:
- a) Gather information on what action is already taking place in Stretton to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
  - b) Address biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications.
  - c) Agree a biodiversity policy for Stretton
  - d) Engage Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to carry out biodiversity audit at a cost of



Stretton DWT  
Proposal.pdf

£766.50.

### 4. Recommendation

To proceed with actions in proposal 1.