

CHAPEL ALLERTON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY POLICY

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, Chapel Allerton 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 Council's area.

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:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

- The Council will elect a Parish Councillor as the Councillor for Environment, biodiversity, climate change and flooding. This Councillor will attend meetings and workshops on these issues, liaise with local environmental groups and other local councils and inform the Council on these issues. In addition the Councillor will submit articles/information to Allerton News and the website which are relevant to these issues.

- Environment, biodiversity, climate change and flooding will be an agenda item at all full Council meetings and the Councillor who has been elected as Environment, biodiversity, climate change and flooding issues will report to the Council on any current issues or initiatives.

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. advocate for measures which keep the Parish as a “dark sky” area, with no external lighting on new developments and extensions unless this can be shown to be strictly necessary and, if possible, shaded or time restricted. Street lighting will be strongly opposed.
- Allerton and Binham Moor (as delineated in the Village Design Statement (2022)) will be promoted as places of high biodiversity value and low intensity farming will be encouraged.
- Building of intensive livestock units on Allerton and Binham moor will be discouraged in order to avoid pollution of watercourses which will be detrimental to wildlife on the moors and in the Bristol Channel
- consider what each proposed development might do for biodiversity net gain.
- support the environmental, biodiversity include policies in support of biodiversity, climate change and flooding priorities set out in the Parish of Chapel Allerton Council, Village Design Statement (2022)

LOCAL COMMUNITY

- The Council will: raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through our website and the Allerton News
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.

PARTNERS

- The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.
- It will review any future local nature recovery strategies.

MONITORING

This policy was adopted on 31st March, 2025 and will be reviewed annually.