

Rainton with Newby Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

Background

Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of life forms found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms. All of these work together in ecosystems to maintain, balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature needed to survive, including food, oxygen, clean air and clean water.

The **Environment Act 2021** placed a strengthened 'biodiversity duty' on all local councils, including the parish sector, to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 01 January 2024; within five years of doing this, they must reconsider the actions they can take.

According to the Act, public authorities need to check if a number of strategies affect how they comply with their biodiversity duty including local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, and protected site strategies.

Local councils need to understand how or if these strategies are relevant to their council, consider how they can contribute to the strategy where appropriate.

Commitment

Rainton with New by Parish Council will:

- consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions it makes; will seek to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity as a result of its activities and will identify opportunities to increase biodiversity;
- raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters;
- work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish;
- 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; 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.

As the owner and steward of the Rainton Village Greens (VG4) the Council will consider how land it manages could improve biodiversity. It will:

- remove invasive species as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species;
- avoid the use of herbicides except in exceptional circumstances;
- schedule grounds maintenance work or vegetation removal to minimise the impact on biodiversity;
- will take into consideration maintenance practices that are beneficial to biodiversity when contracts are placed;
- create dedicated spaces to attract and enhance wildlife;
- improve the buildings it manages and land around them to enhance biodiversity.

Rainton with Newby Parish Council will not produce a biodiversity report and there is no legislative requirement to do so.

Adopted on 09 January 2024