

THORNAGE PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Legislation

In accordance with the Duty imposed by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as amended by the Section 102 Environment Act 2021, Thornage Parish Council will, in exercising all its functions, actively consider how it can conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Biodiversity comes from the words biological diversity and is the variety of life on earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi and the natural systems that support them.

Aim

Through its work Thornage Parish Council will aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity contributing to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity¹ developing an agreed Action Plan for the parish.

The Council will:

- manage its land and buildings to enhance and improve biodiversity through best practices engaging with grounds maintenance contractors and volunteers to encourage them to:
 - ✓ plant indigenous trees and wildflowers;
 - ✓ reduce mowing when possible to create a mosaic of new habitats that benefit wildlife;
 - ✓ enhance water bodies as advised by local wildlife experts;
 - ✓ install bird/bat boxes and creating hedgehog friendly gardens;
 - ✓ reduce reliance on pesticides and herbicides.
- consider the impact on biodiversity when commenting on planning applications ensuring where it is appropriate and possible that there is a net gain in overall biodiversity:
 - ✓ support good design that helps improve the local environment integrating existing habitats and trees within new developments;
 - ✓ support development that increases overall biodiversity.
- educate, advise and raise awareness of the public's understanding of biodiversity and encourage them to improve biodiversity
 - ✓ engage with the local community to raise awareness of biodiversity through newsletters and the website.
 - ✓ actively involve the community in projects to enhance biodiversity, through projects for example tree planting and installing bird/bat boxes.
 - ✓ encourage local enthusiasts/experts to help monitor biodiversity including undertaking surveys for birds, mammals and reptiles.
- encourage landowners and businesses to improve biodiversity
 - ✓ when possible, engage with landowners and businesses to promote the importance of biodiversity, and have an awareness of the importance of green corridors that benefit wildlife.

Review

The Parish Council will regularly review and update its agreed Action Plan.

Date Approved: ...18th September 2024

Date to be reviewed ...2027

¹ [environmental-improvement-plan-2023](#)