

Policy	Environmental and Biodiversity
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## Environmental Policy

Tibshelf Parish Council recognises that operations and activities for which it is responsible can have an impact on the environment. The Parish Council will therefore strive to both minimise any adverse environmental impacts and maximise any positive environmental impacts within all its activities. Tibshelf Parish Council will aim to make a positive contribution to both protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

Many of the decisions and actions of the Council affect the environment either directly or indirectly. In recognition of this, the Council will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise environmental pollution through its influence over others.

### What Tibshelf Parish Council will do

- Integrate sustainability considerations into all our business decisions.
- Minimise the impact on sustainability of all office and transportation and business activities.
- Reduce the energy consumption of office equipment by purchasing energy efficient equipment and good housekeeping.
- Wherever possible waste shall be recycled or reused.
- All waste disposals shall be carried out by registered carriers and removed to registered disposal sites. Documentation shall be held to demonstrate compliance with this.
- Minimise energy use and emissions to air and to use renewable energy sources as far as possible. Tibshelf Parish Council will recommend energy technology where possible – this will include insulation and low energy light bulbs.
- Encourage community/ Parish Council-led initiatives where appropriate i.e., Community Gardens.
- Use local suppliers and contractors to minimise transportation and help to support the local Economy.
- Purchase sustainable supplies as environmentally friendly as possible.
- Tibshelf Parish Council will include Environmental initiatives within its Council Plan.

## Biodiversity Policy

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth and includes all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them. Biodiversity is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity, and has an important role to play in developing locally distinctive and sustainable communities.

**The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006** introduced a duty for all public authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity. Section 40 of the Act states:

“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”. The duty affects all public authorities and aims to raise the profile and visibility of biodiversity. Conservation of biodiversity requires an all-inclusive approach, integrating it into a wide variety of activities.

**The Environment Act 2021** introduced the ‘biodiversity duty’ that public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

This means that, as a public authority, you must:

- Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
- Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.

### What Tibshelf Parish Council will do

- The Parish Council, in line with its Neighbourhood Plan Environment 4 policy, when commenting on planning applications, will 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.
- The Parish 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 ground maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- Tibshelf Parish Council undertakes to work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.
- The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including, for example, tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.
- The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.