



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

1. Introduction

Liss parish is located in the wooded valley of the Upper River Rother within the Western Weald and is a key gateway village to the South Downs National Park. It is one of the largest villages in Hampshire with 3,567 acres of semi-rural countryside.

Liss Parish Council (LPC) is responsible for maintaining the Village Hall, Liss Pavilion, West Liss Recreation Ground, Liss Forest Recreation Ground, Mill Road Community Garden and Orchard and the Newman Collard Park in partnership with the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust. In addition, LPC manages 143 allotment plots over 6 sites in Liss and a section of the Riverside Railway Walk.

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, LPC will, in exercising all its functions, have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

2. 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 the planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. It is the building block of our 'ecosystems'. These 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, and protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water for pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

3. Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to enhance and protect the biodiversity of Liss. LPC will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required. In particular, LPC will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will support the adoption of low impact practices and promote biodiversity.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

4. Actions

Planning applications

LPC 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 consider whether the development would mean the loss of habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- Consider what each proposed development may make in terms of biodiversity net gain.
- Include policies in support of biodiversity within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Land and property management

LPC will:

- Carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings.
- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Take care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- Consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing LPC buildings.

Local community

LPC will:

- Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues and, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on LPC land, e.g. wildflower and tree planting.

Partners

LPC will:

- Work in partnership with other organisations, e.g. The Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust, The South Downs National Park Authority, East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council, to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.

5. Monitoring and Review

Approved by Liss Parish Council on 16th December 2024.

To be reviewed in 3 years, or sooner should legislation dictate.