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## **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2023**

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

Following the adoption of the Thurston Biodiversity Policy, the council now needs to note what action in respect of biodiversity is already taking place locally and what further steps should be undertaken.

Such steps will include:

- Reviewing what biodiversity or nature recovery plans are already in place from other local authorities.
- Making contact with local voluntary groups working on nature conservation.
- Carrying out a biodiversity audit of council landholdings and/or the whole council area
- Gathering expert advice on possible actions in support of biodiversity.
- Drafting an action plan that covers actions that the council will take itself as well as support for the actions of other local bodies.

As part of the Terms of Reference for the Leisure and Environment Committee (to protect and enhance the biodiversity and preserve the environment of the parish of Thurston), the committee will be accorded temporary Delegated Powers under LGA 1972 s.101 for the following specific items on behalf of the Full Council under Resolution:

- production of an action plan to form the basis for analysis of action required to ensure compliance with the council's biodiversity duty
- analysis of the action plan to provide guidance to the council in the consideration and preparation of its relevant strategies for the management of land within its remit to improve biodiversity.

Reporting:

The action plan will be regarded as a live document and will be a standing item at relevant Leisure and Environment Committee meetings.

Items of expenditure to be incurred within the preparation of the action plan will require the sanction of full council under resolution.

An annual review on actions undertaken / completed will be submitted to the Clerk to the Council for inclusion in the annual report to be produced for the Annual Parish Meeting.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity.	Gain local support for action.	Ongoing	Newsletter
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity.	Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Mapping
Cemetery / churchyard	Additional planting  Maintain and renew bird boxes as required.  Adopt a plan to support wildlife & diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance.	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources  Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.  Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees.		
Recreation ground	Sympathetically maintain hedging.  Leave some areas unmown.  Only use environment friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.	Food sources & cover  Encourages insects.  Sustain & enhance natural habitats.		
Common / other open spaces	Adopt a management plan.  Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs.  Work with the county council on verge management  Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after.	Sustain & enhance natural habitats.  Protecting habitats  Protecting/enhancing habitats  Regular attention.		
The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan  Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries	Protecting/enhancing habitats  Extending habitats.	Ongoing	

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	<p>Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine.</p> <p>Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links</p> <p>Encourage local farmers to contribute.</p> <p>Provide seed bombs / bulbs etc. for residents' use.</p> <p>Discourage floodlighting.</p>	<p>Engagement/ownership of biodiversity</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Extending habitats.</p> <p>Protect nocturnal animals.</p>	Ongoing	
Support Community Projects	<p>Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them.</p> <p>Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.</p>	<p>Extending habitats.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote biodiversity.</p>		