

Biodiversity Policy Summary

Public authorities such as parish councils in England must **consider, set objectives for, and act on biodiversity** under the Environment Act 2021, with first action consideration required by **1 January 2024**.

This policy commits [Wilberfoss Parish Council](#) to **conserve and enhance biodiversity** and to factor biodiversity into council decisions, **planning, land management, and community activity**.

The council's main priorities are to **review planning applications for biodiversity impact, manage land in nature-friendly ways**, and **support residents, businesses, and local organisations** to adopt biodiversity-positive practices.

The policy focuses on practical steps such as **habitat-friendly planting, reduced mowing, careful pesticide use, bird boxes, verge management, and wildlife-friendly design** to protect and extend habitats.

Community engagement is a major theme, including **raising awareness, involving residents in projects, partnering with schools and local groups, and using newsletters, social media, and the website** to build support.

The policy will be **reviewed annually** at the council's Annual Meeting to track progress and keep actions current.