FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy

Introduction

Felixstowe Town Council recognises the importance of biodiversity in our town and is committed to maintaining and enhancing natural environments for current and future generations. This policy sets out the Council's role in protecting, supporting, and promoting biodiversity through its own activities and by working with partners and the community.

The Council acknowledges national duties, including those under the Environment Act 2021, and will seek to contribute positively to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Felixstowe.

Aims and Objectives

- Protect and maintain wildlife habitats and, where possible, expand and connect them to create a more resilient network for nature.
- Support the Felixstowe community to have easy access to high-quality natural green spaces, promoting well-being and connection to nature.
- Promote greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of biodiversity and its value among residents and visitors.

Areas of Influence

Planning

When commenting on planning applications, Felixstowe Town Council will support proposals that enhance biodiversity. This includes encouraging features such as green roofs, wildlife corridors, rain gardens, sustainable drainage, and designs that deliver biodiversity net gain in line with national planning policy. The Town Council will advocate for development proposals that demonstrate measurable benefits for biodiversity and, where feasible, seek to exceed the statutory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement, while recognising that the Council itself is not legally responsible for delivering BNG.

Town Council Buildings and Land

On land and buildings owned or managed by the Town Council, every effort will be made, where appropriate and proportionate, to:

- Adopt biodiversity-friendly maintenance practices, such as reducing mowing in designated areas to allow wildflowers to grow and limiting pesticide use.
- Plant native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to create new habitats and food sources.
- Create and maintain features like hedgerows, ponds, and log piles that support a diverse range of species.
- Consider biodiversity in all future land management decisions.

Public Awareness

Felixstowe Town Council will, wherever possible:

- Share information about local wildlife and habitats.
- Promote events and initiatives related to nature and conservation.
- Provide guidance on how residents can contribute to biodiversity from their own homes and gardens.

Residents

The Town Council will support residents to enhance biodiversity in their own gardens and neighbourhoods, for example by:

- Using nest boxes for birds and bats.
- Creating “Hedgehog Highways” with small holes in fences.
- Planting flowers and shrubs that are beneficial for pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- Leaving corners of gardens to grow wild for nature.

Partnerships

The Town Council will work in partnership with local organisations, schools, community groups, landowners, and environmental bodies to:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the town.
- Deliver community-based projects that raise awareness and provide practical benefits.
- Support regional and national biodiversity initiatives.

Monitoring and Review

Progress on this policy will be reported periodically through the Town Council’s communications, including the Annual Report and website, and will be reviewed alongside the Council’s wider environmental objectives.

This policy will be reviewed every four years, or sooner if required, to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

Policy Approved: Assets & Services Committee 17 September 2025
Review Body: Assets & Services Committee
Review Period: Every two years, or sooner as may be required
Next Review: Assets & Services (September 2027)