



TRAWDEN FOREST  
PARISH COUNCIL

# **Biodiversity Policy**

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**Trawden Forest Parish Clerk and RFO**

**Adopted by all Councillors at the meeting on : 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Review Date : November 2025**

## Background

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

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

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth<sup>1</sup>. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea.

## The Local Area

Trawden Forest Parish Council is a semi-rural large village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland, Wycoller Country Park, Boulsworth Hill and the beck, named as Trawden Water.

## Parish Council responsibilities

The Parish Council owns various parcels of land:

- Allotments and garage site at Cotton Tree;
- Millenium Garden;
- Both sides of the Old Post Office, Trawden Road;
- Area at Victorian Toilet, Skipton Road;
- Parcel of land at Bannister Close/Holme Crescent;
- Whole length of the Tram Tracks and verge from Church Street to Lanehouse Lane;
- Land to the rear of the bus terminus;
- Lanehouse Lane Playground;
- Part of parking area at Back Colne Road;
- Ash Villa's Garage Site.

We have also assumed grounds maintenance at:

- Harambee Surgery, Skipton Road,
- Old Chelsea,
- Around and near to the Parish boundary stones,

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystems' by DEFRA

- Around parish council owned benches,
- The area to the side of CNC Support, Skipton Road,
- Well at Well Head,
- Cutting bushes at top of Back Lane.

The Parish Council is also responsible for the provision and updating of the Trawden Forest Neighbourhood Plan.

#### What the Parish Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- It will reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land.
- It will review how it manages the land in its possession; this may include, but is not limited to:
  - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates,
  - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates,
  - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
- The Trawden Forest Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed in 2023/4 and the working group will ensure that biodiversity is discussed and added to the plan as necessary.
- As owner of Lanehouse Lane Playground, the Parish Council will:
  - Ensure that there is a margin of uncut grass around the hedges to allow longer grasses to grow.
- Hedge cutting takes place twice a year, and is very much a balancing act as some of the Parish Council hedges run alongside narrow, well used footpaths so require cutting. All hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season and not between 1<sup>st</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> September<sup>2</sup>.
- The hedges around Harambee Surgery are cut twice a year, outside of bird nesting season, not between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> September) however some of the cut hedging, particularly to the front of Sydney Terrace and behind the front wall is placed on the ground to encourage use by respective animals and invertebrates.
- The Parish Council will look to purchase and install bird boxes in the Parish Council owned trees.
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.

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<sup>2</sup> DEFRA guidelines and Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981