SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL
BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted: 20th December 2023 [FC145-23/24]

1. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 imposes a duty on town and parish councils to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity inexercising its functions. In accordance with this duty Shalford Parish Council, its members and staff will have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity when undertaking decisions or actions on behalf of the council.

2. Biodiversity describes the enormous variety of life on Earth. It can be used more specificallyto refer to all species in one region or ecosystem. Biodiversity refers to every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans.

Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks or "ecosystems", that provide health, wealth, food, fuel and vital services life depends on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity, protecting environmental assets.

3. Shalford Parish Council has direct impact through maintaining our public rights of way, small open green spaces and indirect impact through use and choice of chemicals/materials used throughout its activities and carrying out its functions.

The Parish Council biodiversity considerations and objectives will include – but not berestricted to:

- Assessing chemicals used/use of chemicals in general when maintaining councilowned land/facilities, ensuring safe disposal.
- Restricting use of pesticides on open spaces
- Compost green waste produced from maintaining Shalford Parish Council land/facilities where possible.
- Consider best practice to support pollinators.
- Submit conditions to new build developments, both residential and commercial, todeliver biodiversity net gain above government minimums laid out in Environment Bill and planning policy. Supporting application site and building design elements that benefit biodiversity through conservation and integration of existing habitats orcreation of new. Supporting protection of sensitive habitats and green areas will be included within the production of our new Neighbourhood Plan.
- Maintenance contract specifications will ensure work conducted is not detrimental to the natural environment whilst delivering acceptable standards of work delivered.
- Raising public awareness through the website, newsletters, and notice boards of biodiversity issues, involving the community where possible in biodiversity projectson land owned/maintained by council including tree/hedge planting, wildflower areas and habitat creations.
- Annually reviewing the Wildlife Plan.