

Biodiversity Statement

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. This includes all species of plants and animals and the ecosystems that support them. Biodiversity is central to the natural processes that we all benefit from, such as food and fuel production, maintenance of air, soil and water quality and the regulation of climate and flooding.

Biodiversity and good quality natural environments also contribute to good mental health, cohesive communities and strong local economies and it is essential in our response to climate change.

Leighton-Linslade Town Council is proud of the Town, which displays a considerable range of biodiversity and contributes significantly to the town's distinctiveness, especially in Bedfordshire, and resonates with its values and aspirations.

This statement relates both to the Town Councils assets and to biodiversity more broadly. The activities in managing areas of nationally important wildlife and award winning parks.

The Grounds and Environmental Services Committee and other groups supported by the Town Council will:

- encourage the promotion of awareness of the importance of biodiversity
- work to raise awareness of the biodiversity to be found across the councils assets
- encourage members of the public to conserve and, where possible, enhance this, and explore ways in which it can be used as an educational resource
- seek to support relevant projects and programmes that will conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity
- undertake an assessment of the impact on biodiversity in relation to the councils assets so no developments that are planned reduce existing biodiversity and, if there are situations where that is not possible, make its best endeavours to ensure compensating additional biodiversity elsewhere
- encourage the appropriate groups and individuals to consider the impacts on biodiversity in relation to purchasing, investments, developments
- engage as appropriate with the local community, businesses and organisations, on biodiversity enhancing projects
- comply with relevant biodiversity legislation and official Advisory Codes of Practice
- consider and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan

In order to achieve this commitment, Members, officers and third parties at all levels need to work together as partners on various initiatives. An overview will be maintained by the Grounds and Environmental Services committee which can bring together all parties with an interest or involvement in environment-related activities.