

COLBURN TOWN COUNCIL
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2024

- Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including Town and Parish councils) who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

Following the adoption of the Colburn Town Biodiversity Policy, the council now needs to note what action in respect of biodiversity is already taking place locally and what further steps should be undertaken.

Such steps will include:

- Reviewing what biodiversity or nature recovery plans are already in place from the other local authorities.
- Making contact with local voluntary groups working on nature conservation.
- Carrying out a biodiversity audit of council landholdings and/or the whole council area
- Gathering expert advice on possible actions in support of biodiversity.
- Drafting an action plan that covers actions that the council will take itself as well as support for the actions of other local bodies.

As part of the Terms of Reference for the Open Spaces Committee (to protect and enhance the biodiversity and preserve the environment, the committee will be accorded temporary delegated powers for the following specific items on behalf of the Full Council under Resolution:

- Production of an action plan to form the basis for analysis of action required to ensure compliance with the council biodiversity duty.
- Analysis of the action plan to provide guidance to the council in the consideration and preparation of its relevant strategies for the management of land within its remit to improve biodiversity.

Reporting:

The action plan will be regarded as a live document and will be a standing item on the agenda at the monthly Open Spaces meetings.

Items of expenditure to be incurred within the action plan will require the sanction of the full council under resolution.

An annual review on actions undertaken / completed will be submitted to the Clerk to the Council for inclusion in the annual report to be produced for the Annual Council meeting.