

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 5th March 2024
Report Title	Biodiversity Pledge
Agenda Reference	18
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Officers Recommendation

1. To note the report.

When to meet your biodiversity duty

Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021. Councils then must reconsider the actions it takes within 5 years of the completed previous consideration. The Council can decide to do this more often, for example, reconsider actions quarterly, annually, or every 5 years.

HWPC Biodiversity Pledge

Initial sections to form the basis of the pledge.

1. Improve biodiversity – examples are tree planting, creation of bulb and wildflower areas, reduce grass cutting (No Mow May), only cut the edges of the verges near the roads, etc.
2. Reduce use of herbicides and pesticides in Parks & Open Spaces Team operations.
3. Increase tree planting using Trees for Climate, think outside the box – avenues, standard trees, hedges, all these lock up carbon in the soil.
4. Reduce single use plastics wherever possible – minimise consumption of all resources and consider the lifecycle impact of purchases.
5. Improve energy efficiency in the Parish Council Offices and proposed Grounds Maintenance Facility.
6. Utilise new depot for water collection.
7. Make sure that the environment impact of each project is included in the reports taken to Council – e.g. have a section called environmental impact or like detail how you are reducing the negative impact with any Council decision.
8. Use contractors who are local to minimise transport.
9. Work with partners, e.g. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to determine and implement best practice – Biodiversity Net Gain.
10. To have increased input at Mouldon Hill Country Park.
11. Pledge as a Council to reduce plastic waste.