



BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Biodiversity & Environmental Policy

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1. Purpose

Brackley Town Council is committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity, promoting sustainability, and reducing its environmental impact. This policy sets out our principles, responsibilities, and actions to ensure a resilient, nature-positive future for our community.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all council operations, assets, services, events, procurement, and partnerships. It informs decision-making, planning responses, lease agreements, and community engagement.

3. Strategic Context

- Environment Act 2021 and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements
- West Northamptonshire Council's Local Plan and Climate Strategy
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies and S106 obligations

4. Policy Objectives

- Protect and enhance habitats across council-managed land
- Integrate biodiversity and sustainability into all council decisions
- Reduce carbon emissions and resource consumption
- Promote sustainable procurement and waste reduction
- Support community education and participation

5. Council Commitments

Brackley Town Council will:

- Maintain green spaces using wildlife-friendly practices (e.g. reduced mowing, native planting)
- Install and maintain biodiversity features (e.g. bug hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog highways)
- Respond to planning applications with reference to biodiversity and sustainability
- Conduct energy audits and pursue carbon reduction measures
- Prioritise sustainable procurement and supplier engagement
- Promote active travel and reduce vehicle use
- Engage residents, schools, and local groups in environmental initiatives

6. Monitoring and Review

- Annual review by the Biodiversity Committee
- Progress reported to Council Services
- Policy updated in line with legislation and best practice

Biodiversity and Sustainability Action Plan (2025–2027)

Theme	Action	Lead	Timeline	Notes
Green Space Management	Audit council-owned land for biodiversity value	BTC/Grounds Team	Q4 2025	Use audit to inform mowing regimes and planting schemes
	Introduce wildlife-friendly planting in key areas	Grounds Team	Spring 2026	Prioritise pollinators and native species
	Install bird/bat boxes and bug hotels	Events/Volunteers	Ongoing	Link to community events and school engagement
Planning	Review planning response to include biodiversity considerations	Planning Committee	Q4 2025	Reference BNG and local nature recovery strategies
Procurement	Develop sustainable procurement guidance	Finance Committee	Q2 2026	Include energy, packaging, transport, and lifecycle impact
Events & Engagement	Launch annual "Brackley in Bloom for Biodiversity" campaign	Events/Comms	Summer 2026	Include awards for wildlife-friendly gardens and verges
	Create biodiversity education materials for councillors and public	Comms	Q1 2026	Flowcharts, posters, and briefing notes
Carbon Reduction	Conduct energy audit of council buildings	BTC/External Audit	Q1 2026	Use findings to inform retrofit priorities
	Promote active travel and reduce vehicle use for council operations	Biodiversity Committee	Ongoing	