



Background

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Town and Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives .

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth¹. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea.

The Local Area

Frodsham Town Council is an urban town, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland and woodland.

Town Council responsibilities

The Town Council owns numerous areas of land, including Tarvin Road Cemetery, Memorial Site, 3 allotment sites, woodland areas (Crowmere Lake, Hob Hey Wood, Manley Road Copse, Marl Pits, Marshlands) the Community field and 4 play areas (Ship Street, Top Road, Churchfields, Park Lane) and 4 community orchards (Churchfields, Hob Hey Wood, Ship Street, Hawthorne Road).

The Town Council is also responsible for the grass cutting of these areas, woodland management and the cutting of a number of hedges within the town.

The Town Council is also ultimately responsible for the provision and updating of the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan, supported by the Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan Group formed in 2017.

What the Town Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made by the Town Council.
- It will reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Town Council owned land wherever possible.
- It will review how it manages all its the land this may include, but is not limited to.

¹ As defined in 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystems' by DEFRA

- Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
 - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
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- The Frodsham Neighbourhood plan is currently underway with a view to going out to poll in May 2024 and the working group has ensured that biodiversity is discussed and added to the plan as necessary.
 - Hedge cutting takes place twice a year, and is very much a balancing act as the Town Council hedges run alongside narrow, well used footpaths so require cutting. All hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season.
 - The hedges around the playing field are cut twice a year, outside of bird nesting season
 - The Town Council will look to purchase and install bird boxes in appropriate Town Council owned trees.
 - The Town Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Town Council website.

Approved by: Amenities Committee

Date: 9th October 2023

Review: As required by legislation and not less than every 3 years