

## **SYDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL - BIODIVERSITY DUTY AND OBJECTIVES**

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. Thriving biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems are essential for our survival and wellbeing. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive including, food, oxygen, clean air and clean water.

The Parish Council will, as far as is possible, conserve and promote the biodiversity of the land it manages.

As a landowner (the Parish Council's land includes the Playing Field and Registered Village Greens) the Parish Council will :

1. Proactively remove invasive and non-invasive species as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species.
2. Properly scale and time grounds maintenance work or vegetation removal such that the impact on biodiversity is minimised. Maintenance practices that are beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are placed.
3. Ensure that any hedge and tree cutting takes place in accordance with tree and hedgerow management policies, recognising the importance of hedgerows as a corridor for the movement of wildlife which may support many animals and plants.
4. Discourage all forms of littering, including dog fouling.

The Parish Council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity. It will encourage protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.

In its decision making, the Parish Council will take careful consideration of the need to conserve the natural beauty of the parish and the surrounding landscape. It will seek to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity as a result of the Council's activities and will identify opportunities to increase biodiversity where practicable.

Current Parish Council measures and initiatives:

- ❖ Village maintenance including grass mowing, and verge & hedge cutting
- ❖ Footpath and bridleway monitoring
- ❖ Flower planting – tubs and verge-side daffodils
- ❖ Prompt reporting of sewage leaks to Thames Water and monitoring the brook
- ❖ Provision of dog waste and litter bins
- ❖ Facilitating litter picks
- ❖ Reporting fly-tipping to SODC
- ❖ Footpath map displayed on the village green
- ❖ Reduce paper by maximising the use of electronic documents and re-use/recycle paper