



Dalton with Newton Town Council
Town Hall
Station Road
Dalton in Furness
Cumbria LA15 8DT

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted

Review Date.....

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 Earth'. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and sea.

Aims and Objectives

The object of this policy is to continue Dalton with Newton Town Council's work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area. In addition the Council will raise local awareness of Biodiversity and gain support for action through the Council's monthly newsletter and social media channels.

The Local Area

The Town of Dalton is the ancient capital of Furness and is located on the Furness Peninsula. The local area has a number of natural areas including farmland, hedges, trees, 2 becks (Poaka and the Yarl), community gardens, allotments and green areas. In addition there are a considerable number of public rights of way into the countryside.

Town Council Responsibilities

The Town Council is responsible for the following:

Land at Myrtle Tce

Land at Goose Green

A community garden located on Abbey Road

A small walled garden located at Abbey Road

Permanent planters at various locations

Seasonal planters at various locations

Gateway features at two Town entrances

The transfer of the Hayfield and Wheatfield allotments site will shortly be transferred from the Unitary Authority to the Town Council who will assume sole responsibility

In addition the Town Council maintain grass cutting at one junction located at Long Lane on highways safety grounds and work with the Unitary Authority by carrying out additional grass cutting at both Town Entrances.

What the Town Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Town Council and in particular when commenting on planning applications
- Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates where safety allows
- Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
- To preserve council owned trees where possible and encourage tree planting.
- Will reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Town Council land
- Will investigate the creation of a community orchard with biodiversity areas
- Will investigate the creation of a community allotment with biodiversity areas
- Maintain existing Council owned bird boxes, bat boxes and insect hotels
- Introduce a Council Committee and working group dedicated to Biodiversity
- Promote and encourage biodiversity through its website, newsletters and social media channels.