

Dalton with Newton Town Council

Town Hall
Station Road
Dalton-in-Furness
Cumbria LA15 8DT

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted:0/6/2026.....

Review Date:June 2027.....

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 and decision making.

This duty was strengthened by the *Environment Act 2021*, which requires public authorities to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

This means a public authority must:

- Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on that consideration
- Act to deliver those policies and achieve those objectives

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth. It is present everywhere, including in gardens, fields, hedgerows, trees, rivers and the wider countryside.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this policy is to guide Dalton with Newton Town Council's work in conserving and enhancing biodiversity within the parish.

The Council will also raise awareness of biodiversity and encourage community involvement through its website, newsletter and social media channels.

The Local Area

Dalton-in-Furness is the historic capital of Furness, located on the Furness Peninsula. The area includes a range of natural and semi-natural environments such as farmland,

hedgerows, trees, watercourses (including Poaka Beck and Yarl Beck), community spaces and green areas.

There are also a number of public rights of way providing access to the surrounding countryside.

Town Council Responsibilities

The Town Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of:

- Land at Myrtle Terrace
- Land at Goose Green ‘Memorial Garden’
- The Pin Fold
- Paved area at Goose Green
- Community garden at Abbey Road ‘Reading Garden’
- Walled garden at Abbey Road ‘Bee Garden’
- Rusland Drive seating area
- Permanent planters at various locations
- Seasonal planters at various locations
- Gateway features at two town entrances

The Council also:

- Undertakes grass cutting at Long Lane for highway safety purposes
- Carries out additional grass cutting at town entrances in partnership with the Unitary Authority

The Town Council is not responsible for allotment sites within the parish.

The Council is, however, working towards the creation of a **community growing space** on land leased from Network Rail. This project will be supported by a dedicated working group and will be governed by its own specific policies and procedures.

What the Town Council Will Do

The Town Council will:

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in all decision-making, particularly when responding to planning applications

- Retain standing and fallen dead wood as habitat for invertebrates where it is safe to do so
- Manage and, where necessary, remove invasive species that are harmful to native flora and fauna
- Protect existing trees on Council-owned land and support additional tree planting where appropriate
- Reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides wherever possible
- Maintain existing bird boxes, bat boxes and insect hotels
- Explore opportunities to create biodiversity-rich areas within Council-managed land
- Support the development of the community growing space as a means of enhancing biodiversity and community engagement
- Establish a Council Committee or Working Group focused on biodiversity
- Promote biodiversity through its website, newsletters and social media

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains effective and reflects current legislation, best practice and local priorities.

Signed...B Solari.....

(Chairman)

Minute number.....c15/06/2026.....