



BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Swanley Town Council has multiple Open Spaces and Parks which are used for the enjoyment of its residents, which support a range of flora and fauna alongside local wildlife.

Following the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

This act means that parish and town councils can spend funds in conserving and promoting biodiversity objectives.

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Swanley and Swanley Village.

The Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- Manage its land using environmentally-friendly practices that will promote biodiversity
 - Support local businesses in the adoption of low impact practices
- Support residents and local organisations activities to enhance and promote biodiversity with specific actions for the Development Control Committee will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications
- The Council will lead on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan to promote appropriate and sustainable development in Swanley
 - The Council will, whenever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, particularly with regard to the management of its open spaces
 - The Council will aim to work in partnership with the development of environmentally friendly areas created by residents, local organisations and businesses
 - The Council will raise awareness of environment and promote conservation projects in conjunction with SWAN, Swanley Village Residents Association, Kent Wild Life and other similar groups.

Policy adopted by Full Council on Wednesday 4th September 2019 and to be reviewed in September 2022